Hafa Adai!
Happy Thanksgiving!
75¢
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Torres: We are not done yet

By BEA CABRERA
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REPORTER

Thus said Gov. Ralph DLG Torres yesterday during a meeting with legislators, the business sector, and other stakeholders on Capital Hill in response to the dramatic CW-1 slot reduction of 3,000 for fiscal year 2018.

"We are not done yet. I am glad that [U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service] did not reduce 6,500 slots as originally proposed last October. So we went to D.C. to plead for less than 3,000 because anything less is good for us. I also told them that CWs are not just numbers, they are people who are here that cares for the CNMI economy and livelihood," he said.

Torres convened the Social Eco-

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JON PEREZ

The still unfinished Imperial Pacific Resort hotel and casino towers over Garapan as cars pass by Beach Road on a busy Wednesday afternoon. Labor issues have hampered several construction projects on Saipan due to the current CW-1 problem.

Sablan

'Cuts in line with Trump administration goals

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) said yesterday that the massive cuts in the Commonwealth's CW-1 slots are in line with President Donald J. Trump's goals of reducing reliance on foreign workers.

Citing Executive Order 13788 on "Buy American, Hire American" that was issued in April 2017, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services announced late

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Sex trafficker's motion to vacate conviction denied. PAGE 5
Benedetto: Ample evidence supports Phan conviction. PAGE 8

'CNMI economic growth is at risk'

By BEA CABRERA
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REPORTER

A collective howl of dismay went up yesterday after U.S. Citizenship Immigration Services announced early Wednesday morning its plan to zero out the foreign worker program in the CNMI, with many saying that the move puts at risk the economic resurgence of

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VOX POPULI

What are you thankful for this Thanksgiving?

By ERWIN ENCINARES and KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTERS

Torres

"I thank the Lord for giving us a healthy family; I thank the Lord for [allowing us] to live in the CNMI surrounded with good people. I am grateful for the state of the economy. I appreciate each other and that we ac-

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The Marianas Visitors Authority joins the 2017 Taipei International Travel Fair.

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Saad Hariri returns to Lebanon since quitting as prime minister.

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Pixar co-founder and Walt Disney Animation chief John Lasseter is taking a leave.

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Local

TORRES

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nomic Development Council meeting yesterday after USCIS announced late Tuesday night its plan to zero down the CNMI's foreign workforce, starting by capping the CW-1 program at 9,998 this fiscal year, 4,999 in fiscal year 2019, and 2,499 for the first three months of fiscal year 2020.

Torres reiterated that his administration's work for its growing economy.

"As much as 3,000 slots reduced will hurt the CNMI economy [but] it is still not 6,500 as originally proposed. Was it a success that we stopped the 6,500 reduction? There was great work put into it and now we are going to work on that 3,000 reduction to go down as well," he said.

Torres said when he met with President Donald Trump in Hawaii last month, the discussion was about how exactly a drastic reduction of foreign workers will damage the economy.

"He then told John Kelly, the chief of staff, to make sure that our needs are accommodated. Unfortunately, that trip in Asia took longer and he was not able to reach out to USCIS and give a direct order.

"I got a phone call from the White House this morning and they are very much concerned about the numbers. I got a hold of Jim Caroll, chief of staff of Gen. Kelly, and I will be meeting with him on Dec. 11. What I asked from them is to have an open communication with me, the business community and see the drastic changes within our economic stability that this reduction will result to," he added.

According to Torres, acting Department of Homeland Security secretary Elaine Duke will be confirmed in two weeks and he plans to fly to D.C. for that and have direct talks with her.

"Eventually, she will be the one who will make a decision and we will be coordinating that with a meeting with the president," he said.

Northern Marianas Business Alliance Corp. chair Alex Sablan said there is still an opportunity to lessen the reduction outlined by USCIS.

"Apparently, the White House has called the administration and there's an opportunity to get an increase in CW-1 slots from the current established slots of 9,998 and still work out the details. At the end of the day, that train is leaving the station every single year. There will be a reduction until we find a solution to our Public Law 110-229 scenario that goes to zero eventually."

P.L. 110-229 placed CNMI immigration under federal control and gave birth to the CW program.

"The NMBAC and SEDC task force…have been working for the last year and a half, talking about what provisional changes can be made until we are blue in the face. We believe the solution is to get legislation dropped in the U.S.

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TORRES

From Page 2

Congress to make the necessary changes to tweak Public Law 110-229 so that it will make sense for our economy," said Sablan.

Torres asked the stakeholders present at the meeting to be pro-active in expressing how this reduction is going to affect their businesses, employees, and constituents.

"The federal government reads our papers and is updated about the CNMI. So we need data from the big industries like Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands on the big impact and effect caused by the 3,000-slot reduction. We'd also like to reach out to small to big businesses to start talking about what's going on.

"We need to get a bill passed and to do what we need to get legislation going. We need our local labor [department] to get data that we can use in D.C. and we need the community's help because we will all feel this reduction affect our economy," he added.

Torres feels positive that the CNMI has the support of the White House.

"They will amend the law according to what is feasible for us here. They acknowledge the relationship we have with them and they will do what they need to do to assist us," he said.

"I know it's not the best time to receive this information as we near Thanksgiving. But we've seen worse days in the CNMI and I'm sure we can weather these hiccups," added Torres.

CNMI

From Page 1

the Commonwealth.

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce, which has been front and center in calling for a minimal reduction of foreign workers in the CNMI, said the Commonwealth needs a sufficient workforce to sustain its economy.

Chamber president Velma Palacios said the CNMI economy is currently experiencing tremendous growth, but that growth has now been put at risk.

"We wrote to USCIS and Department of Homeland Security earlier this year, requesting a minimal reduction of the fiscal year 2018 cap of not more than one. The response from USCIS and DHS stated only that a reduction would take into account the provision of the law that requires an end to the program in 2019," she said.

USCIS announced last Tuesday the cap for the final three fiscal years of the CNMI-Only Transition Worker program, starting with reducing 3,000 slots for fiscal year 2018.

Palacios said this will have a significant adverse effect, adding that the delay of the announcement compounds the negative effects, as the CNMI has been waiting several months for the fiscal year 2018 cap to be announced.

She pointed out that when the cap was reached in fiscal year 2017, many businesses had to close down for several months, reduce hours, or find other ways to maintain business operations.

"The current proposed reduction, which is about 76 percent of what was available in fiscal year 2017, will have an even more pronounced negative effect on our economy," she said.

A U.S. Government Accountability Office report in May 2017 stated that, with current and planned development, the available number of U.S. qualified workers in the CNMI is insufficient for business operations.

"This fact is readily apparent to many struggling businesses in the CNMI which require specialized, skilled non-construction workers who are not eligible for visa categories other than CW-1. The logical conclusion is clear: the CNMI will require continued assistance with its workforce capacity through the CW-1 program," Palacios added.

According to Palacios, the current proposed reduction will greatly affect all businesses, regardless of whether they hire U.S. qualified workers or nonresident workers through the CW-1 program, as the total pool of available workers remains the same.

"As our nonresident workers are forced to leave island, our businesses will strain to keep our existing workers and keep their businesses operational. These nonresident workers and their families are an integral part of the fabric of our society and have made significant contributions to our community and the CNMI economy," she said

"Again, this reduction will negatively impact our economy and the community at large. The Chamber, along with other organizations like [the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands], the Society for Human Resources Management, Social Economic Development Council and Northern Marianas Business Alliance Corp., will continue to collaborate with [Gov. Ralph DLG Torres] and [Delegate Gregorio] Kilili Sablan in the development of legislation and administrative actions to resolve our workforce issues," Palacios added.

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THANKSGIVING

From Page 1

tually live in a paradise. …I am grateful for a lot of things in life, mostly just life itself. I wish everyone—near, far, and everyone who call these islands home—a very happy Thanksgiving. Spend time with your family and celebrate and be thankful for the things that you have and for those that you don't have, [like] some of the problems that exist in the world that we don't have here."

—Gov. Ralph DLG Torres

"Happy Thanksgiving to all. I am thankful that we had no natural disasters this year. I am thankful for family and friends. Moreover, I am very thankful for the extraordinary privilege of serving the people of the Northern Marianas in Congress. With our love and prayers, my wife Andrea and I wish everyone in the Marianas a safe and happy holiday season."

—Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan

"We are thankful for everything we have. We must never forget to be thankful to God; to those that are close to us; to the memories of those that have gone before us who have worked and paved the way for us today. We are thankful that we still have the resiliency to continue to improve the lives of our people and this community, and to look forward to things for the generations to come. Life is good on Saipan. It may not be all hunky-dory and it may not be the metropolis that we see in the media but you think about it. You live here. It's home and we are thankful that we are constantly reminded to be grateful of that and try to improve our lives."

—Senate President Arnold I. Palacios

"I am thankful for a lot of things but I am most thankful for my family, my son, and for life.

—Godiva Asanuma

"Thanksgiving brings families, friends, neighbors, communities, and islands to extend a profound thanks for blessings and gifts received from our loving and generous God. We are grateful for all that we have received. I wish all families and friends a heartfelt thanks for the gesture of gift-sharing, especially care, love, encouragement, and support. Happy Thanksgiving to all."

—Sen. Justo Quitugua

"I am thankful that no devastating storms or typhoons were experienced this year. I don't want to go back to the Soudelor issues. I am also thankful for the island developments, the investments that have been made and will be made on Saipan, and that an appropriation is finally in the works for land compensation. It's been idle for many year so Im very thankful that we can see more investors."

—Eli Cabrera

"First, I'd like to extend gratitude to God for the life and blessings each day in my life. Second, I'd like to express my heartfelt gratitude to our people of Rota and the CNMI for the continuous support, encouragement, and prayers. May God continue to bestow upon each and every one of us the best of everything and for God to continue to bless us with His strength, courage, and wisdom to surpass any obstacles or challenges ahead of us. A blessed Thanksgiving to all our people and CNMI!"

—Sen. Teresita Santos

"I am very thankful that I am still around and able to continue to do what I do. I am also thankful for individuals who continuously show an interest in protecting the environment, and for the great times I had this year with family and friends.

—Ray Masga

"Happy Thanksgiving to the people of the Commonwealth, most especially Tinian. I am thankful for all the support and also I thank my family for their support in pushing me to keep moving forward and find ways to help the Commonwealth and the people of Tinian."

—Sen. Francisco Cruz

"I am thankful for my family my friends who continue to surround me with positivity, and I am also thankful for my job and my boss."

—Marty Ilek

"Despite all the challenges we have, we still have a lot to be thankful for: the gift of life, the gift of family, the gift of friends, and more. But I think above all, the gift that we could still hope for things to be better today, better than yesterday. I am still thankful that we have that hope."

—Rep. Angel Demapan

"I am thankful for the job I was blessed with, for my family being together, the new people I encounter everyday, and the opportunity to be on Saipan."

—Alice Law

"I want to wish everyone a happy, wonderful, and blessed Thanksgiving. We are all thankful for this wonderful place we live in: this island paradise. I am grateful to all of the people out there that continue to do great things for our community. I'm brining the turkey."

—Rep. Edwin K. Propst

"I am thankful for my family and to be blessed with life everyday."

— Julie Sablan

"There are a lot of things to be thankful for. We are thankful for every day of our life; we are thankful for our families and friends; we are thankful that our economy at this point of time is growing, so I want to wish the people of the Commonwealth and all of the people that are residing here in the Commonwealth a happy and safe Thanksgiving."

—Rep. John Paul Sablan

"I am thankful for my family, the blessings I receive daily, and for my children."

—Marvieluz Syed

"I just want to say happy Thanksgiving to all of the people of the CNMI, including Rota, Tinian, the Northern Islands, and especially Precinct 4 [of Saipan]. I hope that everyone would enjoy Thanksgiving, which is a time for family gathering. We are looking forward to a whole other year, and I hope it would be more prosperous for everyone. I am thankful that our Lord gives us this life and that we do not see too many people [suffering] compared to other countries."

—Rep. Alice Igitol

"I am thankful for the new job I was blessed with this year, my family, and my friends."

—Kenneth Codog

"*Hafa adai* and I wish the people of the Commonwealth a happy and blessed Thanksgiving. Let us take a moment of silence and give grace to the Almighty for all the many blessings that we receive as people of the Commonwealth. I am thankful for my children, thankful for the many blessings that are given to me, and thankful for the opportunity given to me to serve the people of the Commonwealth."

—Rep. Janet Maratita

"I am thankful for my three children who give me the source of strength I need to take on each day, and for my job that allows me to provide a comfortable life for my children."

—Arlene Naguit

"On behalf of my wife Lisa and our families, we wish to extend a warm, blessed, and safe Thanksgiving to everyone in the CNMI. I am very thankful for our health, what we have in our community, and the economic prowess we continue to have. Happy Thanksgiving to everyone."

—Rep. Francisco Dela Cruz

"I am thankful for everything that I am blessed with in life like my children, my husband, my family, my friends, my co-workers, great neighbors, and my employer. I am also thankful that I was blessed with another year to celebrate Thanksgiving."

—Patricia Concepcion

"I want to say happy Thanksgiving to all the people of the CNMI and to all the families, the teachers, the people of the armed forces, and everyone across the way. I'd like to thank everyone for all the support and blessings. This year, like every year, we are thankful for family and thankful to God for giving us the energy and passion for serving the people. With that said, every year, this year, and not only during the holiday seasons, from my family and I, we want to say thank you."

—Rep. Vinson Sablan

"I wish the people of the Commonwealth and the men and women of the armed forces happy Thanksgiving. Take care out there and I wish you the very best. Enjoy Thanksgiving and the beginning of the holiday season. I am thankful for the opportunity to serve the people. The challenges that we face are more reason for us to work harder. Today is education day for the students that continue to work harder and for teachers that continue to teach our students. I am also thankful for being a new father."

—Rep. Blas Jonathan Attao

"I want to wish everyone in the CNMI and all over the world a happy Thanksgiving. Be safe, be happy, and love one another. The main thing I am thankful for everyday is that I get to wake up. I am thankful for life, thankful for living life, and I am thankful for all of the good things that have been going my way and thankful to be surrounded by really good people."

—Rep. Edmund Villagomez

"From my family and my staff, I'd like to wish everyone in the CNMI a happy Thanksgiving. To our families that are off-island and to those who are caring for our sick, thank you."

—Rep. Ivan Blanco

"I wish to greet the people of the CNMI—most specially the people back on Rota—a happy Thanksgiving. I wish everyone would enjoy their day…in a safe manner. Take the day; use the day. There is a lot to be thankful for and everyone has their own message to say, but generally speaking, we should appreciate that we are here today, alive, and still in this [world]."

—Rep. Glenn Maratita

"I want to give Thanksgiving to the people of the Commonwealth and most especially to the people of Tinian. I am thankful for their continued support in what we do here in the Legislature. Blessings to them for this year. Happy Thanksgiving!"

—Rep. Edwin Aldan

CUTS

From Page 1

Tuesday night that the numerical caps for CW-1 slots would be 9,998 for fiscal year 2018, 4,999 for fiscal year 2019, and 2,499 for the first three months of fiscal year 2020.

"As a candidate, [Trump] promised to get tough on immigration and protect the American workers. Everyone who supported him heard him say that. As today's [*Federal Register*] says, 'This cut is consistent with the general policy in Executive Order 13788: Buy American, Hire American, issued in April…2017,'" Sablan said in a news briefing yesterday. "Those information are directly quoted from that executive order and in today's USCIS order, so no one should be surprised that the Trump administration is cutting back [on the number of] foreign workers in the Marianas."

Sablan gives credit to Gov. Ralph DLG Torres for reducing the cut from a reported 6,000 to 3,000.

According to a statement from the administration, Torres met with Trump and his top advisers on several occasions in October and November 2017 to discuss various issues in the CNMI, including the CNMI Transitional Workers Program.

"On Nov. 3, 2017, I spoke with President Trump and White House chief of staff John Kelly in Hawaii to request assistance to not reduce the number by half. On Nov. 7, 2017, I spoke with the White House Domestic Policy Council and wrote letters to [Kelly]. I also corresponded with his staff on Nov. 8 and Nov. 9," said Torres in a separate statement.

Though the situation looks grim, Sablan noted that prior to the surge of construction workers in early 2006, foreign workers on Saipan numbered only about 9,715 in 2005.

"Fortunately, the Trump administration passed my legislation that bars the use of CW-1 permits for new construction workers, or Public Law 115-53. Before the surge of construction workers in 2006, we had 9,715 CW workers in 2005. The new cap is more than that," said Sablan, adding that he was aware of criticisms about this provision in his legislation.

"But now we can see it will protect our local businesses and help the Marianas economy as a whole—not just the construction industry," he said, expressing gratitude toward Torres for supporting his bill. "That was a smart move."

Sablan said he hopes that Torres would continue to "make the case with the president to keep the cap as high as possible."

"In the meantime, I will continue to work with the bipartisan, bicameral working group in Congress that helped me get 115-53 enacted last August 2017," he said.

"Our goal in legislation is to make sure that there are enough workers in the Marianas to keep the economy going past 2019 and that local workers get jobs first. It would take everything that I have learned over the past nine years and the trusting relationships I have built in Congress. I would also depend on having a unified voice in the Marianas, just as we did on the Northern Marianas Expansion Act this year. As long as we stay unified, we can succeed. But if there are people in the Marianas who start criticizing what we are doing, then that would make success more difficult."

According to Sablan, who was able to get legislation dealing with immigration through U.S. Congress twice, he is "working with a group of people in Congress who understand the Marianas and with whom I have worked with successfully before."

"I think the business community, the governor, and other elected officials know that we will succeed when we work together," he added.

Sex trafficker's motion to vacate conviction denied

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The U.S. District Court for the NMI has denied a motion to set aside the sentence imposed on a former karaoke operator who was convicted of sex trafficking.

In an order on Monday, Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona said that Chang Ru Meng Backman's claims of ineffective counsel is meritless on its face.

Backman was sentenced to 19 years and seven months in prison after a jury found her guilty of forcing into prostitution a woman, who had been tricked into flying from China to Saipan on promises of a work visa and a legal job, when in fact the victim received only a tourist visa, was effectively imprisoned, and was told repeatedly that she had nowhere to turn and must engage in prostitution.

During trial, attorneys Joaquin and Victorino DLG Torres served as her lawyers.

Now she wants her conviction set aside, claiming that her lawyers failed to timely and substantively complete motion to admit evidence of the victim's sexual conduct after the indictment period.

Manglona said she has reviewed Backman's motion and concludes that, to prevail on a claim that counsel was so ineffective as to violate her Sixth Amendment, a petitioner "must show that [her] attorney's performance was unreasonable under prevailing professional standards, and there is a reasonable probability that but for counsel's unprofessional errors, the result would have been different."

In this case, Manglona said, assuming that the trial counsel's failure to timely file a substantively complete motion was objectively unreasonable, Backman cannot demonstrate a reasonable probability that but for her trial counsel's error, she would have been found not guilty.

Manglona said that Backman's theory of defense, in part, was to demonstrate that the victim willingly engaged in sex acts for payment and not as the result of force, coercion, or fraud.

However, Manglona said, as the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit had already stated, "We doubt that evidence that the victim engaged in commercial sex acts after she had been coerced into prostitution has a bearing on whether defendant earlier took coercive actions."

Manglona agreed with the Ninth Circuit.

Manglona said even if the victim engaged in commercial sex acts willingly after Backman was indicted, that does not resolve the material question of whether she coerced or forced the victim to engage in such acts prior to being indicted.

Jurors found Backman guilty on June 7, 2013, of one count of sex trafficking by force, fraud, or coercion, but acquitted her of two counts of the same charges involving two other women.

In February 2014, Manglona sentenced Backman.

Shortly after the sentencing, Manglona appointed David Banes as counsel for Backman and her trial counsel was terminated.

Banes appealed the conviction and sentence.

In March 2016, the Ninth Circuit affirmed Backman's conviction.

While the appeal was pending, Backman filed a motion to vacate her sentence. In the motion, Banes stated that Backman had written him a letter in February 2015 to ask him for the first time to raise the ineffective assistance of trial counsel.

Banes said first, that the trial counsel failed to inform Backman that she could plead guilty and second, that trial counsel did not object to the court's reading of an Allen charge when the jury was deadlocked because counsel wanted more money.

On Feb. 9, 2015, Manglona denied the motion without prejudice, stating that Backman was not precluded from filing another motion to vacate her sentence in the future.

Last March 30, Backman, without a lawyer, filed a new motion to vacate, set aside, or correct the sentence. She argued that she receive ineffective assistance of trial counsel.

In her order denying the motion, Manglona noted that, as the victim testified at trial, she paid a man over $10,000 to travel to Saipan and was told she would receive a work visa for a job on a farm or in a hotel.

However, the victim said she was issued a tourist visa and taken straight to the New Holiday Club run by Backman who took her to a room and informed her that she was required to perform "companion service," including sex, for customers.

Manglona said the victim also testified in detail about being taken by Backman several times to a customer's house or a hotel and forcing to have sex with those customers.

Manglona said one customer testified at trial that he had paid Backman on multiple occasions by cash and check for sex with women from the New Holiday Club.

The judge said all of the evidence demonstrates that it was reasonable for a jury to infer that the victim had been forced, coerced, or defrauded into performing commercial sex acts by Backman.

'Distracted driving accounts for many car crashes in the CNMI'

Distracted driving, such as the use of phones and mixing betel nuts and other things while driving, accounts for many number of crashes in the CNMI, according to the Department of Public Safety.

DPS records show that as of Oct. 31, 2017, a total 218 crashes this year were blamed on distracted driving. There were 281 incidents of car crashes involving distracted driving in 2016, and 203 in 2015.

DPS disclosed these numbers, among other statistics, at yesterday's proclamation signing that declared December as the CNMI Drunk, Drugged, Drowsy, and Distracted Driving Prevention Month.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres called upon the community to join the National Holiday Season Impaired Driving Month's "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" campaign from Nov. 23, 2017 to Jan. 1, 2018.

"We urge everyone to remember the hazards of impaired and distracted driving and to become involved in fighting this dangerous behavior," Torres said.

New DPS vehicles and vessels were also blessed at the ceremony held at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

DPS said the use of mobile technology has become so popular that its use can be seen everywhere, even while driving.

"Taking your eyes off the road, mixing your betel nut, talking to other passengers, or even eating a cheeseburger behind the wheel could cause a crash," DPS said.

On alcohol-impaired motor vehicle crashes, DPS said on Saipan alone, from Jan. 1 to Oct. 31, 2017, out of 1,931 reported crashes, 76 were alcohol related and two were killed involving alcohol.

In 2016, out of 2,068 reported crashes, 57 were alcohol related, with three killed involving alcohol.

In 2015, there were 1,484 reported crashes and 46 of them were alcohol related, according to DPS.

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Aqua Resort Club Saipan
Gather your friends and family and join their Thanksgiving brunch at the Costa Terrace Restaurant today, from 11am to 2pm. Enjoy a delicious Thanksgiving Day feast of all your favorites, prepared by executive chef Eduardo Olarte and his amazing culinary team. For reservations, call 322-1234.

DFS T Galleria
T Galleria invites you to their Thanksgiving 30-percent off sale on selected fashion items. For every purchase on Thanksgiving Day, get a chance to win fabulous prizes, including gift baskets and gift certificates of $200, $300, and $500.

Express Financial
Your dependable money source has your holiday cash. Call them direct at 235-6032 and their friendly local staff will be happy to take your application over the phone. Close a loan this holiday season and receive a $15 gift certificate redeemable at Triple J Five Star Whole Foods Saipan and Triple J Truckload Store.

Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan
Live the Fiesta way and celebrate Thanksgiving at World Café Restaurant today, from 11am to 2pm. It's just $40 for adult and $20 for children ages 4-11. Resident discount applies. For reservations, call 233-6414.

Grandvrio Resort
Restaurant Tropicana celebrates Thanksgiving brunch from 11am to 2pm for only $29 ($26 for local). The amazing menu includes turkey, ham, rib-eye, seafood, sushi, sashimi, champagne, and Budweiser. For reservations, call 237-2527.

Great Harvest Bread Co.
For a limited time only, try their Thanksgiving Day Roll Call by ordering your handmade rolls today for only $7 for a pack of six. Add the handcrafted finishing touches to your Thanksgiving dinner, ensuring your rolls are flaky and soft on your holiday table. For orders, call 234-BRED or visit www.greatharvestsaipan.com.

Midea Electric
Midea Electric's Big Holiday Sale features discounts ranging from 5 to 30 percent on Midea airconditioning, freezer, refrigerator, washer, water dispenser, LED items, hardware, home appliances etc. Installment plans are available for as low as $50. For more information, call 234-0680 or 285-0680.

Herman's Modern Bakery
Choose from their various Thanksgiving special packages with prices ranging from $60.95 to $175.95. For dessert lovers, all pies and 8-inch round cake are 10 percent off. Call all orders at least 24 hours in advance at 234-1726.

Hyatt Regency Saipan
Your holiday meals are done. Whether you are hosting a family dinner or entertaining guests for the holidays, consider ordering from DJ's Corner's Meals to go. DJ's Corner is open 24 hours. For more information, call 234-1234 Ext. 34.

Aiko's Deli
Enjoy turkey, ham, and roasted chicken Thanksgiving packages that are guaranteed to be enjoyed by your whole family. Every purchase of a Jumbo Set entitles one to a free bottle of wine. Roasted Pig (40-50 lbs) is also available for only $249.95. Call Aiko's Susupe at 234-6445, Aiko's Hafa Adai at 234-6406, Aiko's Dandan at 235-6018, and Aiko's Kagman at 256-6442.

Kanoa Resort Saipan
Have a Thanksgiving brunch at Kanoa Resort from 11am to 2pm for only $30 adults and $15 kids (resident discount applies). Enjoy your Thanksgiving favorites, coupled with free flowing red, white, or sparkling wines. Enjoy their succulent carving station paired with bottomless ice-cold beer.

Marg's Bakery & Kitchen
Avail of Thanksgiving special goodies like pumpkin pie, *lantiya*, dinner roll and pumpkin roll and other favorites like cheesecakes, pies, and cakes. Place your order at least one day in advance at 234-1229. They are open on Thanksgiving Day.

National Alamo Rent-a-Car
Avail of their Thanksgiving deal and drive a Toyota Yaris for only $39/day or $99 for three days, a Nissan Rogue for only $49/day or $129 for three days, a Toyota Corolla for only $39/day or $99 for three days, and a Toyota Sienna for only $79/day or $199 for three days. Call 233-0111 or 285-4405 for reservations.

PHI Pharmacy
PHI Pharmacy invites everyone to their Thanksgiving sale from Nov. 6 to 25 at both locations. Enjoy 35-percent off on supplements, vitamins, and sports nutritional products, 25-percent off on all OTC items, and 50-percent off on selected items. Two convenient locations are ready to serve you on Navy Hill (CHC) and in Dandan (Joeten Dandan Center).

Saipan World Resort
Time to splash and wobble, wobble at Wave Jungle from Nov. 23 to 26, 9am-5am and enjoy the promotion rate of only $5. No reservations, no advance purchase, as it's just first come, first serve. For inquiries, call 234-5900 Ext. 350. ***(Bea Cabrera)***

THANKSGIVING HOURS

BankPacific schedule
BankPacific is announcing its Thanksgiving schedule as follows:

■ Thursday, Nov. 23, 2017: All Guam, Palau, and CNMI branches will be closed. MyCloudBanking will still be available at bankpacific.com and all ATMs will be fully stocked.

■ Friday, Nov. 24, 2017: All Guam, Palau, and CNMI braches will be open their regular hours.

■ Monday Nov. 27, 2017: All Guam, Palau, and CNMI branches will open their regular hours. ***(PR)***

Bank of Guam closed Thursday and Friday
Bank of Guam is announcing the following Thanksgiving holiday hours:

■ **Thursday, Nov. 23:** All Guam, CNMI, Federated States of Micronesia, and San Francisco branches will be closed. Customer Service Department will also be closed.

■ **Friday, Nov. 24:** All Guam, CNMI, FSM, and SF branches will be closed.

Guam and CNMI branches that normally open on Saturdays will operate as usual, from 9am to 1pm.

■ **Monday, Nov. 27:** All Guam branches will close at 3pm. ***(PR)***

CUC hours on Thanksgiving
The Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s office hours on Nov. 23 and Nov. 24 is as follows:

Thursday: Closed for Thanksgiving holiday

Friday: Customer Service Center is open 8am to 12pm for payments and purchase of prepaid meter tokens (load) only. All Other Offices will be closed

Regular business hours will resume on Monday, Nov. 27, 2017. For emergencies, contact the CUC Call Center at 664-4282 (4CUC). ***(CUC)***

Transfer station, landfill closed for Thanksgiving
In observance of Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, Nov. 23, both the Lower Base transfer station and the Marpi landfill waste disposal facilities will be closed all day. ***(PR)***

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Benedetto: Ample evidence supports Phan conviction

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

There was enough evidence for the jury to find David Trung Quoc Phan guilty beyond a reasonable doubt, according to assistant U.S. attorney James J. Benedetto.

In the U.S. government's opposition to Phan's motions for acquittal, Benedetto said the court gave the witnesses instruction detailing the factors bearing on believability. He filed the motion in federal court on Monday.

Whether the victims lied, erred in perception or recollection, or misunderstood the interpreters, the jury resolved those issues in favor of the prosecution, he added.

A federal jury found Phan guilty last Oct. 18 of mail fraud, fraud in foreign labor contracting, and fraud and misuse of visas and permits.

Phan's co-defendants, Muksedur Rahman and Md. Rafiqul Islam, were also convicted.

Phan's fiancée, Analyn Nunez, and Rahman's wife, Shahinur Akter, were acquitted.

Another defendant, Zeaur Rahman Dalu, has already pleaded guilty.

Phan, through Steven Pixley, now wants to be acquitted and for the charges to be dismissed. Pixley asserted that the evidence of the U.S. government was not enough to convict his client.

Pixley said the prosecution's three witnesses had no evidence that Phan intended to hire these Bangladeshi workers, nor did the workers testify that they paid Phan any recruitment fee or that he had recruited them.

In the U.S. government's opposition, Benedetto said there was sufficient evidence for the jury to conclude beyond a reasonable doubt that Phan participated in a scheme to defraud the witnesses.

Citing an example, Benedetto said that government witness Tazizul Islam testified that when he complained to Phan about not having work, Phan told him that he was only the sponsor to bring him to Saipan and Rahman was supposed to give him work.

Benedetto said Tazizul also testified that he later spoke with Phan's fiancée, Nunez, and that she confirmed that United Brothers had a contract with Rahman, and that Rahman was supposed to get Tazizul a job.

Phan is the president/manager of United Brothers, which owns TBK Auto Cares.

Benedetto said Phan also told Tazizul that Rahman was supposed to pay him (Phan) $700 for each worker, but that he had only received $1,500 for all five Bangladeshi workers.

The prosecutor noted that the government's witness, Rafiqul Islam, also testified that when he confronted Phan about not being provided work, Phan said his job was only to bring the workers to Saipan.

He said witness Belayet Hossain also testified that Phan admitted that his contract was to bring the workers to Saipan, not to provide them jobs.

Benedetto said witness Abu Bakkar Beg also testified that when he and other workers spoke to Phan, the latter admitted that Rahman was supposed to pay him $1,500 to sponsor six of Rahman's "relatives" into Saipan.

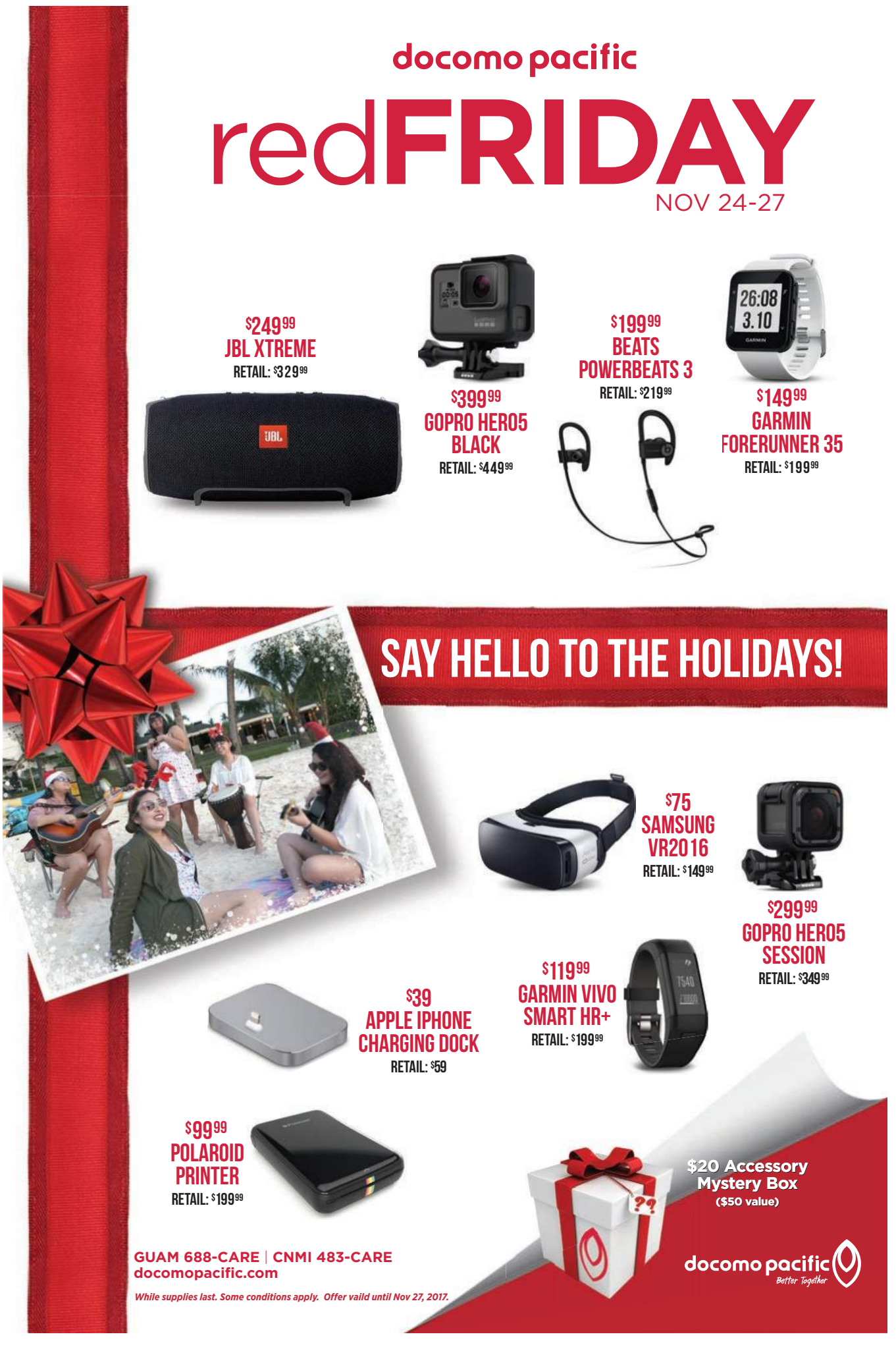
The testimonies of other witness corroborated the story of the victims, Benedetto said.

He said the jury never seriously considered the defense theory that the victims fabricated accusations against their employers to get T visas.

While several of the workers may have misled consular officials about their knowledge of the jobs on their contracts, Benedetto said they also testified that they had raised concerns about their contracts that showed different jobs than what they had been promised, and that the defendants assured them that the contracts were "just a formality" to get them in.

He said the victims' testimony about why they lied was understandable and credible.

"The jury reasonably concluded that the victims' admissions enhanced—not diminished—their credibility, due to the possibility of criminal sanctions," he said.



Request to modify $100K cash bail of man accused of dousing gas on girlfriend denied

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A request to modify the $100,000 bail imposed on a 24-year-old man accused of pouring gasoline on his girlfriend and setting fire to their house was denied yesterday.

Citing the seriousness of the charges, Superior Court Associate Judge Wesley Bogdan denied John Piteg Teregeyo's motion to allow him to be released to a third-party custodian upon posting a property bond.

Assistant attorney general Chester Hinds had argued against the bail modification.

Assistant public defender Nancy Dominski argued for Teregeyo's motion.

Chief Public Defender Douglas W. Hartig, counsel for Teregeyo, had proposed Teregeyo's grandmother as the third-party custodian and Teregeyo mother as a secondary third-party custodian.

In the government's opposition, assistant attorney general Teri C. Tenorio noted that the victim has been in constant communication with the Office of the Attorney General and has opposed Teregeyo's release, as she is afraid of him and believes her safety and wellbeing are at risk.

"Notwithstanding the threat and attempt to kill and risk of danger to the victim, the nature and circumstances surrounding of this alleged criminal conduct underscores the significant danger to the community should the court release the defendant under any circumstances," Tenorio said.

She said Teregeyo is alleged to have attempted to kill his then-girlfriend by dousing her, her clothes, their bed, and their bedroom with gasoline and pushing her in the bedroom to prevent her from fleeing as he lit the room on fire.

The prosecutor said police, firefighters, and medics found the victim hiding at a nearby house of the defendant's relatives, drenched in gasoline.

Tenorio said witnesses described the victim as panicked and in fear of her life when she managed to escape and flee to safety.

Teregeyo was allegedly attempting to leave the crime scene but was spotted by two police officers, who managed to restrain him to prevent him from fleeing.

Tenorio said the arson investigators later determined the cause of the fire was incendiary. "There can be no doubt as to the weight of the evidence should this case proceed to trial," she said.

Tenorio pointed out that the nature of this type of crime—attempting to kill an intimate partner—is so egregious that releasing Teregeyo "jeopardizes the safety and welfare of this victim and the CNMI community."

The alleged victim told police that she and Teregeyo were having an argument in the house's bedroom last Oct. 20 when he went outside, brought in a container filled with gasoline, and spilled it around the entrance of the bedroom, inside the bedroom, and on her body.

She said Teregeyo also choked and pushed her. He then allegedly shoved a shirt in her mouth.

The Office of the Attorney General charged the defendant with attempted first-degree murder, arson, assault and battery, and disturbing the peace—all related to domestic violence. Teregeyo pleaded not guilty.

NMC Start Smart needs volunteers

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

The Northern Marianas College is looking for college graduates to volunteer as speakers for its upcoming Start Smart seminar.

Speaking at the Rotary Club of Saipan's weekly meeting on Tuesday at the Hyatt Regency Saipan, NMC Enrollment director Manny Castro said the Start Smart seminar needs college graduates in the community to talk to high school students about college.

On Saipan, the first Start Smart session will be held on Nov. 30, the second session will be on Dec. 4, and the third will be on Dec. 5.

Tinian and Rota will have separate sessions in January.

The seminar was first launched in 2009 in the Commonwealth due to low enrollment rate in college. It was initiated to increase awareness among high school seniors on the benefits of pursuing higher education.

The seminar highlights a segment called "I graduated, now what?" that touches base on financial aid, the benefits of starting off in a community college before entering a university, and the transition from Saipan to a different environment.

Castro said it is important to get college graduates from the community as volunteers so that students can get first-hand advice that they can relate to from those who have successfully took on the college experience.

According to Castro, successful college graduates from the community can inspire students by sharing their personal stories of transitioning, to the struggles while studying away from home, and how they overcame.

NMC also feels that community members who have graduated can not only help high school seniors understand the struggles of pursuing a higher education, but provide them with tips on how to prepare.

Volunteer speakers will be given five to 10 minutes to give their speeches before transitioning to a different topic.

Also offered during the seminar are various engagement activities.

For additional information, individuals can contact Castro at manny.castro@marianas.edu, or call NMC at 234-5498.

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Marianas event in Russia joined by US consul general

The Marianas Event 2017 on Nov. 17, 2017, in Vladivostok, Russia gathered key travel trade partners and media, as well as U.S. Consul General Michael Keays and his wife Andrea as guests of honor.

Keays delivered remarks to open the promotional event, followed by Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Christopher A. Concepcion. The event, held at a popular, modern farm-to-table restaurant in downtown Vladivostok was highlighted by presentations on air service and the destination, itself.

A representative of Jeju Air Vladivostok office shared information about the history of the airline, its services, its bonus program, and flights to the Marianas.

Consul General of the U.S. Consulate in Vladivostok Michael Keays, second from right, welcomed travel trade and media partners to the Marianas Event 2017 hosted by the Marianas Visitors Authority in Vladivostok on Nov. 19, 2017. Pictured from left are MVA trade marketing & PR executive Denis Nikolaev, MVA product development manager Tatiana Babauta, MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion, Keays' spouse Andrea, Keays, and MVA's Vladivostok office head manager Svetlana Vasilevskaya. MVA

In September 2017 Jeju Air opened flights from Seoul-Incheon to Vladivostok.

Considering the multiple daily flights available from Seoul-Incheon to Saipan, travelers from Vladivostok now have a convenient route to the Marianas at a reasonable price.

"It is why I am happy to be here tonight, knowing that this year has been rather successful for the Northern Mariana Islands. The recent opening of new flights from Vladivostok to Seoul, and then to Saipan, by Korea's Jeju Air has seen an increase in the number of arrivals to the Northern Mariana Islands from Russia—and specifically Vladivostok. This is very good news," said Keays. "It is also good news that the Northern Mariana Islands, as U.S. territory, is visa-free for Russians. As we start to feel the bite of the cold winter, I can think of no better time for Russian tourists to visit the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. When I can find time in my busy calendar, I plan to visit them myself!"

The MVA shared information about the latest hotel and tourism infrastructure developments in the Marianas and new special promo offers from local hotels for the Russian market. The MVA also introduced a new incentive program for Russia travel trade to boost sales of tours.

After the presentations guests participated in "The Marianas Expert 2017" game developed by the MVA's Russia team to educate, train and entertain the guests. Guests were divided into 10 teams named after islands of the Marianas. Teams chose to answer questions from categories such as: General Facts about the Marianas, History of the Marianas, Nature & Sea of the Marianas, Hotels, Travel Tips, Kids Facilities in the Marianas, Entertainment in the Marianas, Transportation, and more. The winner team received specially produced prizes in the shape of latte stones presented by Keays.

A raffle was held with prizes donated by Saipan World Resort, PIC Saipan, Fiesta Resort & Spa, Mango Resort, SeaTouch, and Let's Go! Tour Company. The main prize, certificate for two tickets to Saipan, was provided by Jeju Air Vladivostok office. The event ended with a banquet featuring Marianas-inspired cocktails specially developed for the event. ***(MVA)***

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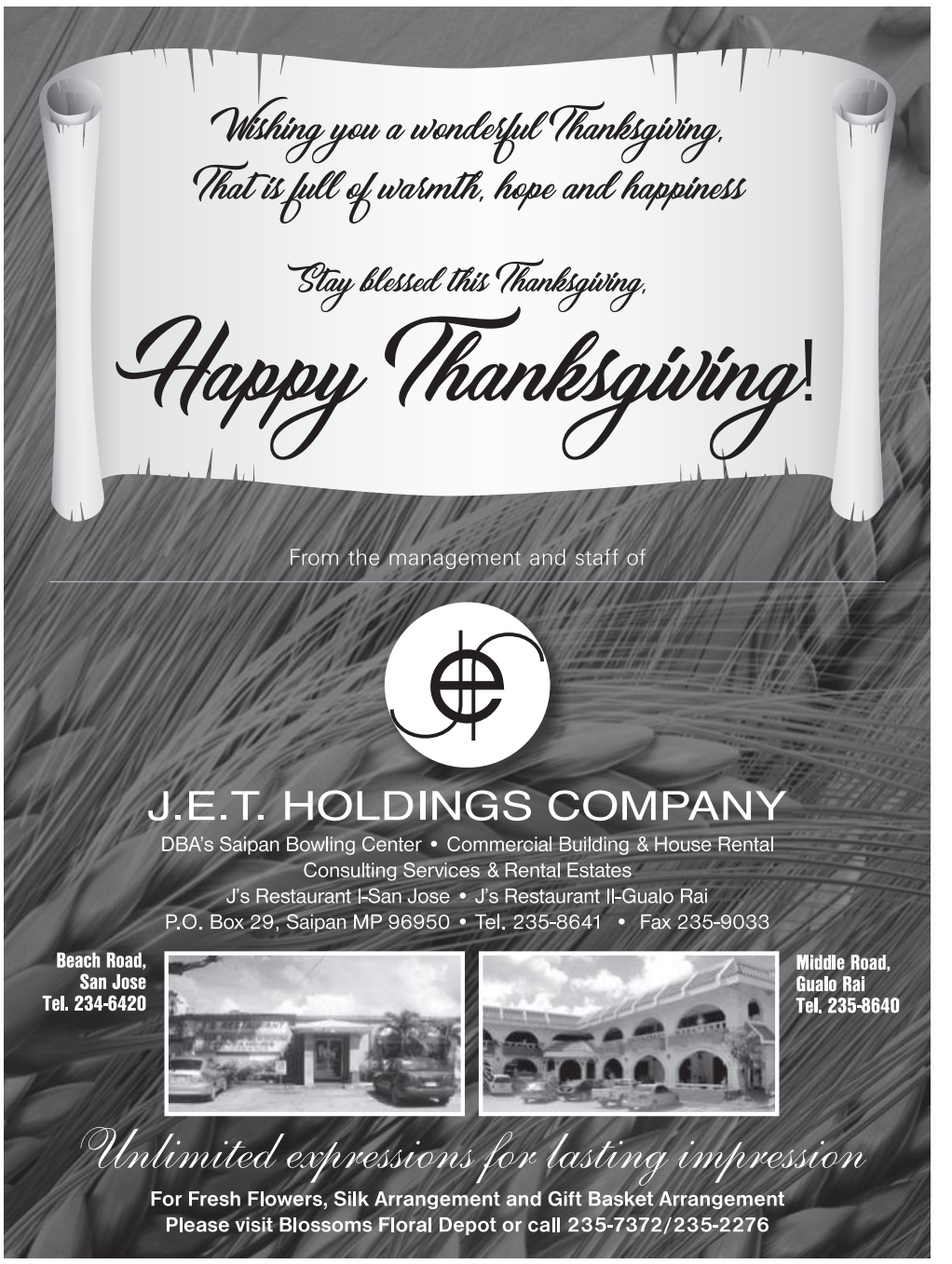
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EDITORIAL

Trump should keep ban on elephant trophies

Big-game hunting was once a glamorous pursuit that inspired admiration of its practitioners. Ernest Hemingway went to Africa to shoot lions, rhinoceroses, leopards and other animals. On their safaris, Theodore Roosevelt and his son killed over 500 animals, including hippos and zebras.

But those days are gone. Today, to be photographed grinning over a majestic animal's corpse is to invite mass condemnation—as Minnesota dentist Walter Palmer learned in 2015 after killing a much-beloved lion in Zimbabwe. Donald Trump Jr. got a taste of the same when he was photographed holding a knife and the severed tail of an elephant he had shot.

A measure of the ignominy that attaches to this pastime came last week when the Trump administration announced its decision to allow the import of trophy elephants bagged in Zambia and Zimbabwe, scrapping a ban imposed by the Obama administration.

There were the expected protests from groups that advocate for conservation and animal welfare. But the move was condemned even by hard-core conservative commentators Laura Ingraham, who tweeted that she feared it would "INCREASE the gruesome poaching of elephants," and by Michael Savage, who wrote that President Donald Trump would "forever lose the independent, animal-loving voter" if he didn't reverse it.

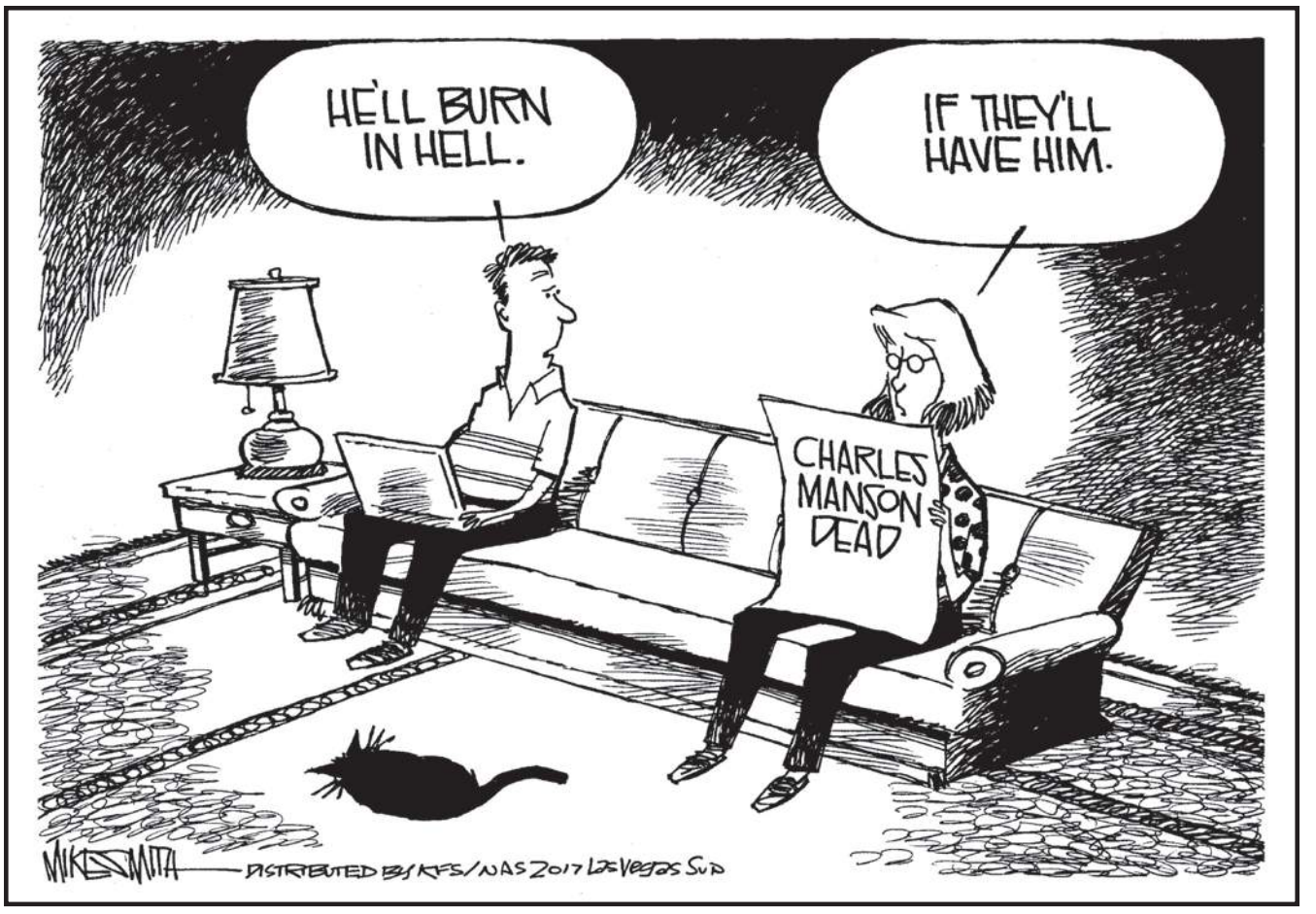
Almost immediately, the president did reverse it, saying the step would be put off so he could give it more consideration. Later, he tweeted that its supporters would "be very hard pressed to change my mind that this horror show in any way helps conservation of Elephants or any other animal."

The argument for allowing such imports is that countries can raise funds for conservation by allowing wealthy hunters to harvest elephants and other big game. If the beasts are a lucrative source of revenue, the theory goes, governments and their people will have big incentives to ensure the health and survival of the species. The Obama administration allowed elephant trophies from South Africa and Namibia, though it banned trade in ivory from African elephants.

It's not clear how much good can be achieved through the paradoxical policy of allowing elephants to be destroyed in order to preserve elephants. "The hunting-safari business employs few people, and the money from fees that trickles down to the villagers is insignificant," writes Virginia Morell in The Atlantic. It's also hard to imagine that a country as badly governed as Zimbabwe can be trusted to police poaching.

In any case, the moral implications make it hard to defend any hunting of African elephants, intelligent animals that are listed as "threatened" under U.S. law. Americans,

See TRUMP on Next Page



Thanks to those who do the right thing

By REKHA BASU
Des Moines Register

Rekha Basu is a columnist for the Des Moines Register. *Readers may send her email at rbasu@dmreg.com.*

In a year like this one, people show what they're made of. Are we content to live with the train wreck playing out in Washington, an administration that lurches, crows and saber-rattles with disregard for decency, truth and individual rights? Or do we have the courage to call it out and demand better?

Do we treat the tsunami of sex-abuse allegations against powerful, prominent men in entertainment, media and politics as a set of unfortunate coincidences? Or do we acknowledge there is something seriously wrong in our culture whose root causes need exploring and addressing?

Will we passively step aside and let a foreign government meddle in our elections because a would-be president invited its help in digging up dirt on his opponent?

The answer: No, we won't. For as tumultuous a year as it has been, testing core American values, people have pushed back and stood in the way of significant disruption. Since this is a day for giving thanks, let's focus on them.

It's a more daunting task to challenge a leader of your own party. John McCain, the longstanding Republican Arizona senator who blew his chances of becoming president when he named Sarah Palin his running mate, has distinguished himself this year with his truth-telling. He has called out Donald Trump many times for his tone and fought his agenda, citing the president's "crackpot conspiracy theories," as well as isolationism, protectionism and nativism.

Thanks to him and some other Republicans in Congress, including Susan Collins of Maine, Trump repeatedly failed to get the much-needed Obamacare rescinded. Collins and McCain were also among a group of Republicans—including Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, Mitt Romney, Orrin Hatch, Mike Lee, Steve Daines, Lisa Murkowski, Jeff Flake and Cory Gardner—who, without having to be prodded, called on Roy Moore to drop out of the Alabama Senate race.

The president says Alabama voters should decide the fate of Moore, who is alleged to have made sexual advances on multiple teenage girls (one of them 14) while in his 30s. Then again, with a dozen or more women accusing Trump of sexual misconduct, anything Trump says could backfire on him.

Alabama Gov. Kay Ivey, meanwhile, said she believed Moore's accusers but also made it clear she would take a child abuser over a Democrat in that seat. Heaven help us.

The number of sexual harassment or assault accusations against prominent men is making it feel like we're living through an epidemic. And they include men many of us would consider enlightened or progressive, who might even call themselves feminists. There's Democratic Minnesota senator and former "Saturday Night Live" cast member Al Franken; actor Kevin Spacey; comedian Louis C.K.; and celebrated TV journalist Charlie Rose. And 80 women have named movie producer Harvey Weinstein.

The fact that these claims involving people with authority are so ubiquitous is deeply disturbing. But the fact that so many women and even men have been emboldened to speak up about their experiences, prompted in part by the #MeToo hashtag, is progress. Instead of shaming and stigmatizing victims into silence, we're beginning to put the blame where it belongs. Thank you Leigh Corfman, Leeann Tweeden and many others.

Some Republican members of Congress also deserve thanks for recognizing that people who were too young to have any say in the matter when they were brought to America and raised here should have the right to call America home.

And thanks are due the nine Republicans senators, including Iowa's Joni Ernst, who came out against Trump's decision to ban transgender people from the military for no good reason.

Thanks to federal district court judges in Maryland, Hawaii and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit for having the guts to state the obvious in rejecting the president's travel bans on people from particular countries: that they were biased against Muslims.

And on the subject of foreign arrivals, I have a thank you that is personal. Late last week, a federal court in New York State ordered the Buffalo Federal Detention Facility in Batavia to stop holding asylum seekers who are awaiting hearings on their claims of fleeing violence or political persecution without fair access to parole or bond. The officials at Batavia reportedly had stopped granting parole releases in January after Trump took office. Some applicants have been imprisoned many months without a bond hearing. The New York Civil Liberties Union and the International Refugee Assistance Project at the Urban Justice Center sued and won. My daughter-in-law Aadhithi Padmanabhan is one of the N.Y. Civil Liberties Union attorneys who handled the case. Thanks, Aadhithi.

In fact, ACLU chapters everywhere deserve a round of thanks. They've had a busy year fighting encroachments on civil liberties. So do Planned Parenthood chapters, especially our own Iowa-Nebraska one, for carrying the torch for women's health in the face of defunding.

It's in times like these that leadership shows itself, when people do the right thing regardless of potential costs. Thanks to all of you who do.

Can Trump-haters be thankful for him?

By CAL THOMAS
Tribune Content Agency

Readers may email Cal Thomas at tcaeditors@tribpub.com.

Any other Republican president but Donald Trump might expect to get at least some credit for the mostly positive direction in which the country is headed. Unfortunately, the Trump-haters prefer to focus on his, shall I say, unusual personality, rather than results. So let's put personality aside and consider what has happened in his first 10 months in office.

The liberal Los Angeles Times reported on a focus group conducted by Democratic pollster Peter Hart. Of those polled, Trump supporters and those who voted for Hillary Clinton expressed disappointment about the president's behavior, but gave him positive marks on the economy. If "it's the economy stupid," as Bill Clinton strategist James Carville once said, and the economy is roaring, what's the problem?

As the president has repeatedly said, the stock market continues to soar to new heights, which must delight retirees in Florida who see their IRA and 401K dividends rising most months. Unemployment figures are the lowest they've been in 17 years. Even unemployment among Blacks is down, as are the numbers of people on food assistance.

ISIS has been ousted from its last stronghold in Syria. True, President Obama deserves the credit for beginning the process with heavy bombing of ISIS targets, but it is President Trump who lifted many of the rules of engagement that kept the U.S. military fighting a losing battle.

North Korea is back on the list of state sponsors of terrorism where it belongs.

The president has pushed tax reform, which hasn't been successfully addressed since 1986, to a point where it is on the verge of Senate approval, assuming a few recalcitrant Republicans can be persuaded to put taxpayers first, instead of the grievances they hold against the president (I'm speaking of John McCain, Bob Corker and Jeff Flake).

Goldman Sachs strategists are predicting not only a continued American economic recovery, but a concurrent worldwide lifting of many boats. One reason is the cash that has been sitting on the sidelines during the last recession is now making a beeline for stocks and mutual funds, causing the Standard and Poor's Index to rise by a spectacular 20 percent so far this year. That's more than triple its average annual increase over the last 20 years. Despite higher stock prices, Goldman Sachs analysts are recommending their clients buy now. Tech stocks are performing particularly well as companies re-invest profits to expand their firms.

When the left gives grudging credit to a president it hates, you know he must be doing something right. Here's what Atlantic magazine said in its August 2 issue: "With the Trump administration's chaos sucking up all the attention, it's been able to move forward on a range of its priorities, which tend to be more focused on regulatory matters anyway. It is remaking the justice system, rewriting environmental rules, overhauling public-lands administration, and green lighting major infrastructure projects. It is appointing figures who will guarantee the triumph of its ideological vision for decades to come."

That may be faint praise, but it's praise.

President Trump is appointing conservative judges to federal courts and has released a list of names to choose from should another vacancy occur on the Supreme Court. All appear to be conservative constitutionalists.

Yes, his form could be better, but the substance is very good. Imagine what he could do if congressional Republicans got behind him—as Democrats do with a president of their party—and started backing him on legislation they promised to enact during their campaigns.

So, even if you are not particularly enamored by the president's style (and many continue to be), give him some credit, especially if you are traveling this Thanksgiving, which is a sure sign that the economy and consumer optimism heading into the busy shopping season are on the increase.

For that, all of us—even Democrats—should be thankful.

Trump should realize that petulance is not presidential

By JAY CARUSO
The Dallas Morning News

Jay Caruso is a member of the Dallas Morning News *editorial board. Readers may email him at jay.caruso@dallasnews.com.*

People have a fondness for saying about President Donald Trump, "I don't care what he says. I care what he does."

For many professions that might be applicable. For, say, a professional athlete or movie star. Public servants, on the other hand, get held to a higher standard—as they should. Trump doesn't get a pass from that standard because he's president. In fact, it should be higher.

Recent actions by Trump suggest he thinks the presidency is all about loyalty to him rather than him serving the public. He sees himself as a "boss" when in fact, he's just the hired help. Trump doesn't understand the distinction, which was made all too evident in several recent tweets about the UCLA basketball players arrested in China on shoplifting charges.

Trump put in a word for the players with Chinese President Xi Jinping and proceeded to take all of the credit when the players were released.

Fast forward a few days and LaVar Ball, father of LiAngelo Ball, suggested Trump didn't have much to do with securing his son's release. When asked about Trump's role, the elder Ball replied, "Who? What was he over there for? Don't tell me nothing. Everybody wants to make it seem like he helped me out."

Ball's words got back to Trump. Instead of shrugging the comments off or just going about his day, the president took to Twitter, blasting Ball and saying he was, "unaccepting of what I did for his son and that shoplifting is no big deal. I should have left them in jail!"

Trump didn't stop there. He also tweeted: "Shoplifting is a very big deal in China, as it should be (5-10 years in jail), but not to father LaVar. Should have gotten his son out during my next trip to China instead. China told them why they were released. Very ungrateful!"

Trump defenders will tell me, "Oh come on, Caruso! Trump was merely reacting the way any of us would!"

For the record, I don't disagree that Ball plays the part of an ingrate very well. But Trump should know better. (How often does this need to be said about a 71-year-old man?) He doesn't seem to comprehend that as president, he serves the public. The office of the presidency is not a vehicle for getting people to lavish praise upon him.

Sure, we've all had ingratitude directed our way. You hold the door for a person, and he or she doesn't say "Thanks." You allow a car to move in front of you in traffic and the driver doesn't give you the customary "Thank you" wave. You drop a buck or two into the tip jar at Starbucks, and the clerk barely notices.

We all want to lash out and say, "Hey! How about some thanks over here?"

Trump defenders: "Ha! That's just what he did!"

Yes and that's the problem. Trump shouldn't. Showing leadership at times means saying nothing. Actions speak louder than words.

LaVar Ball came off looking bad with his comments about Trump. Not content to let it go, Trump made the situation worse when he suggested he should have allowed three men to rot in a Chinese prison because somebody didn't show enough allegiance to him.

Some people still seem to think that one day Trump will "get it." That he will finally comprehend the importance of his office and that running the country is not the same as hosting a reality television show.

I won't hold my breath.

A humble suggestion to improve our politics

By KYLE WINGFIELD
The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Angels do not govern men, a fact we face more and more often.

The U.S. Senate last week alone featured one member who may face an ethics investigation (Robert Menendez of New Jersey, whose corruption case ended in a mistrial), one member who asked for an ethics investigation into himself (Al Franken of Minnesota, accused of sexually assaulting a woman on a USO tour 11 years ago) and one aspiring member threatened with possible expulsion if he wins office (Roy Moore of Alabama, accused of inappropriate relationships with teenage girls decades ago).

Morality and its counterpart, hypocrisy, are again front and center in the political debate. Moore is of course an outspoken evangelical Christian who rose to prominence after installing, and defying a federal court order to remove, a 2-ton monument to the Ten Commandments in the Alabama state courthouse. Franken is a proponent of Obama-era guidelines for handling sexual assault and harassment cases on college campuses, rules which curtail due-process rights for the accused.

We could indeed use more virtue in the public arena. Might I suggest an oft-forgotten one: humility.

Many a victorious candidate speaks of being "humbled" by the electorate's approval. Too few maintain that sentiment once in office.

Power can do that. But so can all that goes with it: cameras and microphones, ritual and pomp, flattery and favor-seeking. All of this grows as one moves up the ladder. Some stay humble, but many don't.

What takes humility's place? Here are some guesses based on observation: Out-sized confidence in one's ideas and their impact on thousands, millions, hundreds of millions of other people at a time. A sense of being indispensable, even irreplaceable. A notion that one's mistakes, present or past, will remain conveniently unmentioned.

But the biggest threat to humility is that we, the voters, are inconsistent at best about demanding it.

We ask who can do the most, the fastest, once in office. We score debates based on who offers the zingiest one-liners, no matter how many words they might have to eat later. We have turned our elections _ and the higher you go, the truer this is _ into such warped spectacles that few people with healthy amounts of ambition and self-regard even dare to enter them.

Think about our last two presidents: Mr. "I'm LeBron, baby" and Mr. "I alone can fix it."

Or consider the history of Roy Moore. Here is a man who calls himself a constitutional conservative, but who not once but twice was removed from the bench for refusing to submit to our constitutional order as it pertains to the judiciary.

He had the right to disagree with higher courts about religious displays in courthouses and same-sex marriage. He did not have the right to defy their orders. In the name of his principles, he became what he hated: an activist judge ignoring the rule of law.

There is nothing conservative about that. There is nothing constitutional about that. And there is nothing humble, or otherwise virtuous, about that. Yet here he is, perhaps on the verge of winning a statewide election for the third time.

Humility can be just an election away, but only if voters make sure of it.

TRUMP

From Page 12

like people of many nationalities worldwide, have come to grasp the intrinsic value of such creatures.

Trying to justify their hunting undermines the ethic needed to ensure the long-term survival of animals whose numbers have dwindled. Wayne Pacelle, president and CEO of the Humane Society of the United States, asked, "What kind of message does it send to say to the world that poor Africans who are struggling to survive cannot kill elephants in order to use or sell their parts to make a living but that it's just fine for rich Americans to slay the beasts for their tusks to keep as trophies?"

The day when humans can no longer justify shooting such creatures for mere pleasure is coming. By keeping the ban on these trophy imports, the president could hasten that day.

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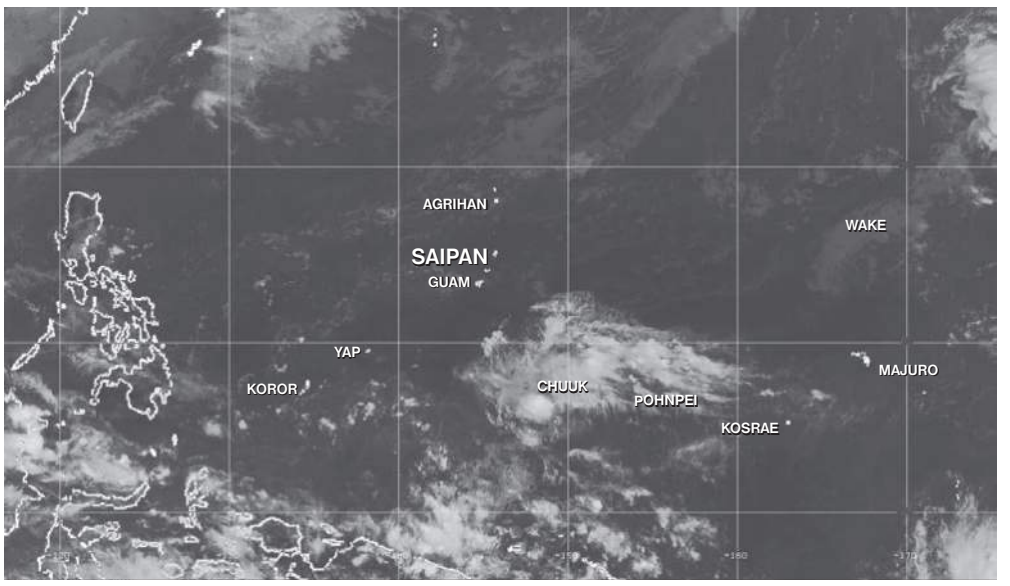
The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Partly sunny with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼78°	▲89° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲89° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:00 AM, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2017
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Little change made to the forecast. A series of high pressure areas will move off of Asia through the coming week. The pressure gradient between high pressure and lower pressure south of 10N will produce east to northeast trade-winds of mainly between 10 to 20 mph through the forecast. A slightly stronger center of high pressure will help generate winds of 20 to 30 mph Saturday through Monday. Deep-layer moisture will vary over the course of the forecast and there could be some patchy clouds at times, although partly cloudy skies will be the predominant type. Showers will be isolated at best.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	86° / 79°
Palau	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°
Yap	Partly Cloudy	87° / 79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	86° / 80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86° / 77°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86° / 77°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	72° / 59°
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	45° / 23°
Hong Kong	Mostly Cloudy	64° / 61°
Honolulu	Windy	81° / 71°
London	Partly Cloudy	54° / 45°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	91° / 63°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	88° / 79°
Melbourne	Showers	91° / 66°
Miami	Thunderstorms	80° / 69°
New York	Mostly Sunny	45° / 35°
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	54° / 43°
Paris	Showers	57° / 46°
Busan	Mostly Sunny	55° / 34°
Rome	Mostly Sunny	63° / 52°
Salem	Partly Cloudy	64° / 41°
San Francisco	Mostly Cloudy	64° / 55°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	43° / 21°
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	55° / 39°
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	47° / 33°

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- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
4:22 AM	LOW TIDE	-0.10
11:31 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.80
5:19 PM	LOW TIDE	1.21
9:33 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.60

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Thursday	6:22 AM	5:43 PM
Friday	6:23 AM	5:43 PM
Saturday	6:23 AM	5:44 PM
Sunday	6:24 AM	5:44 PM
Monday	6:24 AM	5:44 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Thursday	9:56 am	9:33 pm	-
Friday	10:41 am	10:23 pm	-
Saturday	11:26 am	11:12 pm	-
Sunday	12:09 am	-	-
Monday	-	12:03 am	12:51 pm

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 6, 2017

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:15pm	7:05pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 7
7C3451	4:00am	7:05am	4, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	2:00am	6:05am	2, 3, 4
OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
TW308	2:35am	6:20am	6, 7
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily
LJ652	3:40am	7:30am	1, 4, 5, 7
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:30am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:00am	10:25am	1
JD396	4:50pm	8:15pm	4

SAIPAN-NANJING (NKG)

XP889	4:45pm	10:30pm	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:10am	10:55am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:55am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	9:00am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	8:10am	7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	1, 3, 4, 6 via GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:40pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6398/193	6:05pm	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	2:00am	5:00am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:45am	8:40am	1, 3, 5, 7
UA6398/159	6:05pm	11:00pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:30am	3:00pm	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4
7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	3, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
TW307	7:45pm	1:00am+1	1, 2, 3
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
TW307	8:05pm	1:35am+1	5, 6
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
LJ651	9:10pm	2:40am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:10am	3:30pm	4
JD395	10:05pm	5:30am+1	7

NANJING (NKG)-SAIPAN

XP888	9:35pm	4:00am+1	1, 4, 6

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:25pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA182/6395	12:40am	8:05am	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA6395	10:05pm	8:05am+1	2, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA192/6395	10:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA184/6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:20pm	12:30am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:50pm	1:45am+1	7
UO42	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/6395	11:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express, XP XTRA Airways; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

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SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

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MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Christopher A. Concepcion, second from right, joins the pre-fair press conference of Taipei International Travel Fair on Oct. 26, 2017. (MVA)

The Marianas Visitors Authority delegation promotes Saipan, Tinian, and Rota at the Taipei International Travel Fair on Oct. 27-30, 2017. From left are MVA Community Projects manager Martin Duenas, MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion, former intern to the Marianas Sunny Lin, MVA Taiwan in-country manager Milane Tsai, and Marianas ocean tourism ambassador Yorko Summer. MVA

Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Christopher A. Concepcion is featured on the cover of *Travel Trend News* as part of media coverage of the Northern Mariana Islands at the Taipei International Travel Fair in October 2017. The fair attracted over 366,000 visitors. MVA

MVA promotes CNMI at Taipei travel fair

The Marianas Visitors Authority joined one of the biggest annual travel industry events in the Asia-Pacific region, the 2017 Taipei International Travel Fair, on Oct. 27-30, 2017.

This year the fair received 366,976 visitors, a 1.63-percent increase over last year's fair.

The event attracted 950 exhibitors, including the MVA, with 1,650 booths from 68 countries.

The pre-fair press conference on Oct. 26 also attracted 200 members of the local and international press community.

On Taipei ITF opening day, the MVA launched its online campaign "2018 Intern to the Marianas," also called "The Best Internship in the World" and considered the most popular campaign among tourism boards in Taiwan.

Former intern Sunny Lin and her dance troupe performed an island-style dance. Throughout the fair, the MVA booth was visited by members of the public and key travel partners, including Taiwan Visitor Association chair Yeh Chu-Lan, Hong Kong Airlines general manager Oliver Li, Asiana Airlines' country manager, and more.

MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion also named Taiwanese underwater photographer, diving instructor, and travel journalist Yorko Summer the Marianas ocean tourism ambassador.

"Yorko will help promote the Marianas' world-class marine and tourism resources to audiences in Taiwan, Hong Kong, and China," said Concepcion. "We have already conducted some stunning outdoor advertising with Yorko in the high traffic Taipei 101 Station next to the ITF exhibition halls. This is a prime location that receives approximately 1.8 million visitors per month."

A live radio broadcast interview with Concepcion on Oct. 27 with ICRT, Taiwan's first English radio station, emphasized the Marianas as a top island travel destination. Other media exposure included a cover story in *Travel Trend News* magazine and another article in *Travel Rich* magazine. The Marianas received 18 mentions in media clips as a result of its participation in the fair. ***(MVA)***

Governor Ralph DLG. Torres

Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog

"A Grateful Commonwealth"

Our ancestors were a brave people, who taught us the value of showing gratitude for the many blessings they received. They showed us the gratitude for the safe journey to these beautiful islands they settled as their own, gratitude for their health and security, and gratitude to live their lives with their friends and loved ones in what we now call the Marianas. Our history reminds us that our people— from the very beginning— believed in the concept of inafa'maolek— doing good for one another in order to reach a common goal.

Like many of you, we'll spend this holiday weekend with family and friends, catching up, eating some great food, and enjoying each other's company. But before we fill our plates, let us remind ourselves to take this opportunity to be grateful for all of God's blessings, for the kindness of family and friends, and for the progress we have made together.

Let's remember and be grateful for what keeps us together: our love for the Marianas, our commitment to progress, and our belief that if we all work hard together for the benefit of every single person who calls these islands home, our Commonwealth's future is bright.

Thank you, Si Yu'us Ma'ase, and Ghilisow!
God bless you, and from our families to yours,
Happy Thanksgiving!

RALPH DLG. TORRES

VICTOR B. HOCOG

GPD is awarded $1.6M grant for its COPS Hiring Program

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The U.S. Department of Justice has awarded the Guam Police Department $1,660,578 for 15 police officer positions.

The 2017 COPS Hiring Program is a competitive grant program that funds the hiring or rehiring of law enforcement officers.

CHP provides 75 percent of the approved entry-level salaries and fringe benefits of each newly hired and/or rehired full-time officer over the three-year (36-month) grant period.

Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo (D-GU), who announced the grant award yesterday, as been a strong supporter of funding for the COPS Hiring Program. In March 2016, she signed on to a joint letter to the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies urging appropriators to provide sufficient funding for fiscal year 2017 for the Community Oriented Policing Services program, in particular the COPS Hiring Program. She joined a similar letter in April of this year supporting sufficient funding for the COPS program for fiscal year 2018.

"The Guam Police Department is appreciative of the $1,660,578.00 award, which funds the recruitment of 15 police officers. This is the largest amount of funding for police officer recruitment since 2011 when GPD was awarded $1,278,072 for the recruitment of 12 police officers. Since 2011 the COPS Hiring Program has awarded a total of $4,732,649 for the recruitment of 41 police officers in the Guam Police Department," said Guam Police Department major Andrew B. Quitugua.

"The COPS Hiring program has been instrumental to helping local police departments nationwide recruit and retain law enforcement officers, said Bordallo. "I have been a strong supporter of this program throughout my time in Congress and have joined my colleagues in urging House appropriators to ensure the program has sufficient funding each fiscal year. Funds from this grant will support 15 police officer positions at the Guam Police Department and enhance public safety on island. I commend GPD leadership for working with the Justice Department to secure this grant and I look forward to these federal funds benefitting our community." ***(PR)***

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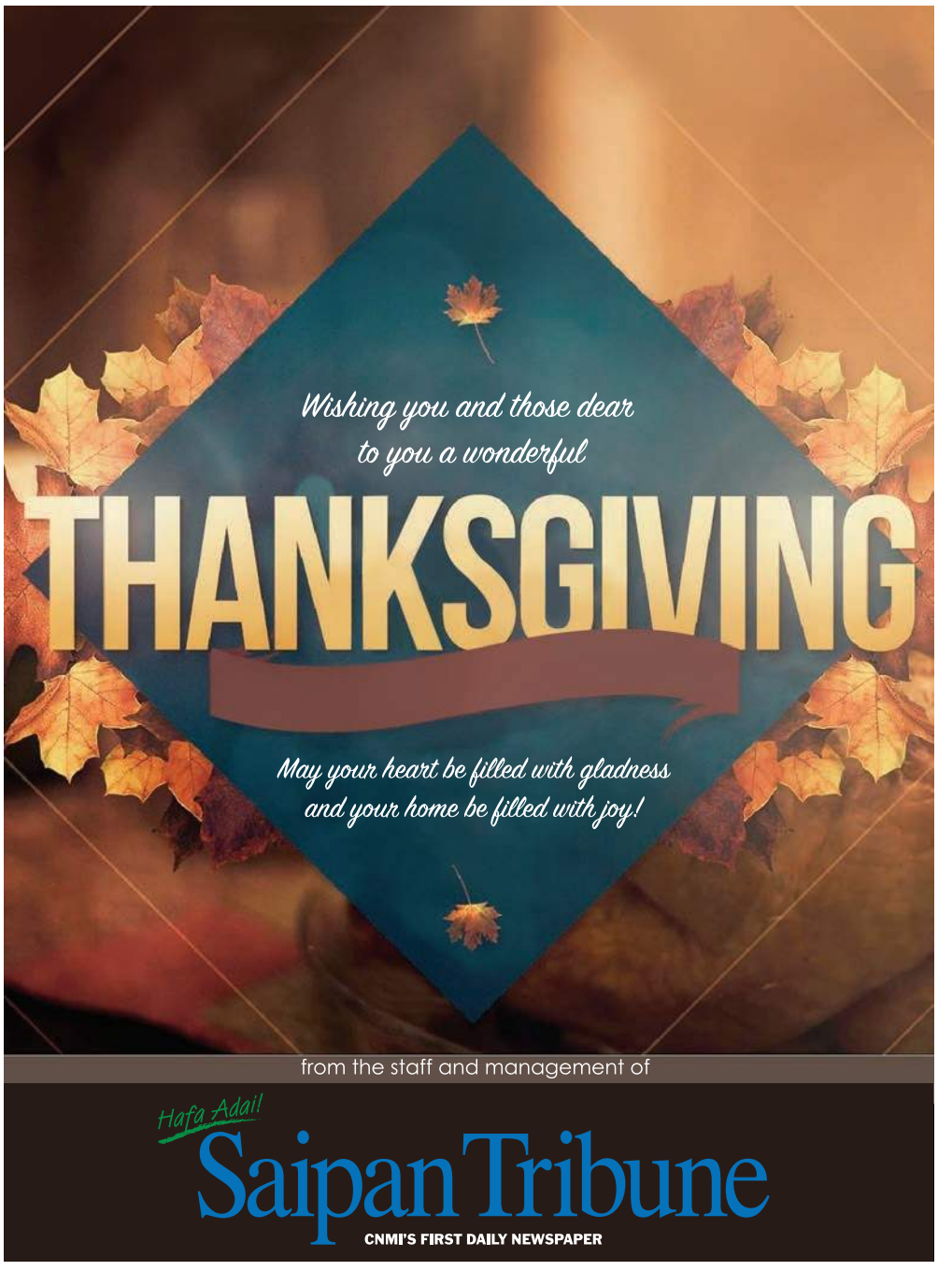
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Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

FUTURE VIDEOMAKERS
Northern Marianas College president Dr. Carmen Fernandez presents awards to three students for their original videos focused on climate change. First through third place winners include Jobelle Y. Tauben, seated center, Abigail F. Alovera, seated left, and Donavan I. Camacho, seated second from left. Family, friends, representatives from NMC CREES, and the Office of the Governor join in to celebrate their accomplishment. NMC

Coast Guard leads search for 7 missing fishermen in Palau

HONOLULU—The U.S. Coast Guard is coordinating a search for seven fishermen Tuesday, after their Japanese-flagged 50-foot fishing boat, the *Gyotoku Maru No. 1*, reportedly capsized 218 miles southwest of Palau.

The search is being done with the help of the U.S. Department of Defense, the Japanese coast guard, the government of Palau, and AMVER partners.

"We are coordinating…to bring resources to bear for the search," said Lt. Cmdr. Josh Empen, the search and rescue mission coordinator at Sector Guam. "Search and rescue in vast and remote regions is only possible through unity of effort and strong international partnerships."

Assisting with the search are:

■ Air Force KC-135 Stratotanker fixed wing airplane aircrew from Anderson Air Force Base in Yigo, Guam;

■ Pacific Mission Aviation fixed-wing aircraft based out Yap and Palau;

■ AMVER fishing vessel *Hiro Maru*;

■ Japanese coast guard JA500A fixed-wing aircrew from Okinawa, Japan;

■ Japanese National Fisheries University vessel *Koyo Maru;* and

■ Fishing vessel *Matsu Ichimaru No. 8*, sister ship of the *Gyotoky Maru No. 1*.

■ En route are:

■ HC-130 Hercules fixed-wing airplane aircrew from Coast Guard Air Station Barbers Point, Oahu, Hawaii;

■ U.S. Coast Guard cutter *Kiska*, homeported in Apra Harbor, Guam;

■ Navy P-8 Poseidon fixed-wing airplane aircrew from Kadena Air Base in Okinawa;

■ Japanese coast guard vessel *Ryukyu*; and

■ Palau patrol vessel *President H.I. Remeliik.*

At 1:51pm, Monday (Hawaii time), the *Koyo Maru* crew initially located the capsized vessel *Gyotoku Maru No. 1*, 253 miles southwest from Palau.

At 8:32pm, Monday (Hawaii time), the Stratotanker aircrew conducted a search of the area and located two possible life rings and one life raft but no signs of survivors. Several other vessels in the area conducted searches but have seen no signs of the fishermen.

Watchstanders at Coast Guard Sector Guam received an emergency positioning indicating radio beacon alert hit at 9:18pm, Sunday (Hawaii time) regarding a possible distress situation for the *Gyotoku Maru No. 1*.

Sector Guam watchstanders confirmed the EPIRB hit and registration of the fishing vessel with the Mission Coordination Center in Japan. The vessel is reportedly a longline tuna vessel registered with the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission.

Weather on scene was reported as 20 mph winds, seas 2 to 4 feet and 10 miles of visibility.

The Coast Guard 14th District has responsibility for search and rescue across 12.2 million square miles of the Pacific Ocean to include the main Hawaiian Islands, Guam, Saipan, and American Samoa extending out in all directions.

The Coast Guard is the world's premier maritime search and rescue agency ready to answer the call for help, even in the vast and remote regions of the Pacific Ocean.

AMVER, or Automated Mutual-Assistance Vessel Rescue system sponsored by the U.S. Coast Guard, is a unique, computer-based, and voluntary global ship reporting system used worldwide by search and rescue authorities to arrange for assistance to persons in distress at sea, especially in remote areas. With AMVER, rescue coordinators can identify participating ships in the area of distress and divert the best-suited ship or ships to respond.

More information will be released as it becomes available. ***(USCG)***

World

Lebanon's Hariri returns to Beirut amid resignation saga

BEIRUT (AP)—Saad Hariri returned to Lebanon late Tuesday for the first time since he stunned his country by announcing from Saudi Arabia that he was quitting as prime minister more than two weeks ago.

Hariri

His resignation, made in an uncomfortable televised statement from Riyadh, set off an international political crisis involving Paris and Washington, who were left without one of their chief partners in a region swirling in conflict.

Hariri left Saudi Arabia for Paris on Saturday by invitation of French President Emmanuel Macron, before traveling on to Beirut by way of Egypt and Cyprus on Tuesday.

President Michel Aoun said he would not accept the resignation until Hariri delivered it in person.

Hariri, looking solemn upon his arrival, was driven from the airport to pray at the grave of his father, the late Prime Minister Rafiq Hariri. He then retired to his home in central Beirut.

He was expected to join Aoun and Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri at the army's independence day parade Wednesday.

Hariri was leading a coalition government with his political opponents in the militant group Hezbollah when he stunned Lebanon by announcing his resignation on Nov. 4. He accused Hezbollah of holding Lebanon hostage and hinted there was a plot against his life.

The announcement pushed Lebanon back to the forefront of a pounding regional rivalry between Saudi Arabia and Iran, which until recently appeared to have a tacit agreement to find an accord to keep Lebanon stable.

It also set off speculation that Hariri had been forced to step down by the Gulf kingdom and was being held there against his will. His announcement was accompanied by a sharp intensification of Saudi rhetoric against Hezbollah, which the kingdom accuses of meddling on Iran's behalf in regional affairs.

Hezbollah has been fighting on the side of Syrian President Bashar Assad in that country's brutal civil war, where many of Assad's enemies are rebels backed by Saudi Arabia. The kingdom says Hezbollah is also advising Houthi rebels waging a war against Yemen's Saudi-backed government.

Hezbollah says Saudi Arabia has partnered with Israel to conspire against regional independence.

Hariri, in his only in depth interview since announcing his resignation, told his media station Future TV that he could retract his resignation if a deal could be struck with his opponents to distance Lebanon from regional conflicts.

Bombing at Nigeria mosque kills at least 50

LAGOS, Nigeria (AP)—A teenage suicide bomber attacked worshippers as they gathered for morning prayers Tuesday at a mosque in northeastern Nigeria, killing at least 50 people, police said, in one of the region's deadliest assaults in years.

Bloody debris covered the floor inside the mosque in Mubi town in Adamawa state where worshippers had arrived around 5 a.m. Outside, people gathered around the dead.

President Muhammadu Buhari tweeted that he was "saddened by the very cruel and dastardly suicide bombing attack."

"May the souls of the dead rest in peace," he added.

Police spokesman Othman Abubakar told The Associated Press they were "still trying to ascertain the number of injured because they are in various hospitals."

While there was no immediate claim of responsibility for the bombing, suspicion immediately fell on the Boko Haram extremist group. The group is based in neighboring Borno state and has been blamed for scores of similar attacks over the years.

Tuesday's attack was the first since Mubi town was liberated from Boko Haram insurgents in 2014.

Boko Haram increasingly has been using teenagers or young women as bombers, many of whom have been abducted.

The police spokesman said the young man detonated his explosives Tuesday while mingling among the worshippers.

While Nigeria's military in recent months has flushed Boko Haram from its forest stronghold, President Muhammadu Buhari's claim late last year that the extremist group had been "crushed" has proven to be premature.

Boko Haram has been blamed for more than 20,000 deaths during its eight-year-old insurgency. The attacks have spilled into neighboring countries and displaced more than 2.4 million people in the Lake Chad region, creating a vast humanitarian crisis.

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres condemned the suicide attack and reiterated "the solidarity of the United Nations with the Government of Nigeria in its fight against terrorism and violent extremism," U.N. deputy spokesman Farhan Haq said.

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Seafood & Sushi Night
Reg.: $35 (Local: $25)
WED
Breakfast Buffet $19
Buffet Lunch
Reg.: $20 (Local: $17)
Seafood & Sushi Night
Reg.: $35 (Local: $25)
THU
Breakfast Buffet $19
Thanksgiving Brunch
Reg. $29 (Local: $26)
FRI
Breakfast Buffet $19
Buffet Lunch
Reg.: $20 (Local: $17)
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Environment

Orca quandary: Other protected species are eating their food in Puget Sound

By LYNDA V. MAPES
THE SEATTLE TIMES

SEATTLE—Booming populations of seals, sea lions and other marine mammals are eating so much chinook salmon, they may pose a bigger challenge to the survival of hungry local orca whales than fishermen do, a new study has found.

The findings also helped researchers quantify yet another pressure on protected chinook salmon runs: the voracious appetites of recovering populations of predators.

Consumption of chinook by protected marine mammals other than southern-resident killer whales jumped 150 percent from 1975 to 2015, researchers found. That's such an increase that commercial and recreational fishermen, facing tighter and tighter catch limits, have watched their share of chinook crater by 41 percent during the same time period, while seals, sea lions and northern populations of killer whales feast.

By now, the combined harvest of chinook by commercial and recreational fishermen in Central and Northern California, Oregon, the Columbia River, the Salish Sea and Gulf of Alaska is probably less of a competition problem for the southern residents than other marine mammals beating them out for a meal, researchers found.

For managers, the situation poses a conundrum. Nine West Coast populations of chinook salmon are protected under the Endangered Species Act but getting chomped by other protected species.

How do you protect one species of marine mammal while not hurting another?

And what about cutting back human harvest to protect chinook — only to feed them to predators?

"The trick is, now recovery of fish species is no longer just a fish problem, or a fishing problem," said Isaac Kaplan, a research fishery biologist at NOAA's Northwest Science Center in Seattle and an author on the paper. "It is now an ecosystem problem, involving trade-offs with predators, all of which are protected, and some of which are in critical condition."

The findings are a result of a modeling exercise that looked at predators' recovery in the ocean, and the effect it's having on salmon populations.

The results were surprising, revealing new aspects of a feast-and-famine reality with a dynamic that had not been previously understood. While the southern residents' population declines, all other marine mammals tracked in the research study — seals, sea lions and the killer whales in Alaskan and Canadian waters — are booming.

That is thanks in part to 40 years of protection from hunting, and a feast of a far wider range of chinook salmon species headed north to Alaska, as well as the chinook predators pick off within the southern residents' feeding grounds.

Meanwhile, southern-resident killer whales, the J, K, and L pods that frequent Washington's interior waters, are critically endangered, with a total population down to just 76 animals, a 30-year low.

It's not just the overall number that matters, said Ken Balcomb, director of the Center for Whale Research. It is also the downward trend in the number of breeding-age females and longer intervals between births.

"We are killing the goose, and we are killing it by not feeding it," Balcomb said.

The local orcas' preference for chinook salmon in their home range within the interior waters of Washington is hurting them in two ways, according to the paper, published Monday in the journal Scientific Reports.

Not only are they losing out on the fish they want to eat, but they also aren't eating the other animals that are their direct competition for those fish.

It's unusual in nature to see an animal lower on the food chain beating out a top predator for its meal.

In the summer, the southern residents eat chinook salmon exclusively as the whales forage in the Salish Sea, and earlier in the year they will linger for months off the mouth of the Columbia River, cruising for early spring kings, said Mike Ford, another author on the paper and director of conservation biology at the Northwest Fisheries Science Center.

Southern residents will eat other salmon the rest of the year — for instance coho, which make up more than 40 percent of their diet in late summer, according to orca fecal analysis published by researchers last year. The southern residents will take other fish, too, such as lingcod, but they are small print on their menu.

Just what they are eating in winter is under active study, with results not yet published, Ford said. The chinook runs targeted by the southern residents give the local orcas a narrower range of species to choose from, among runs that are in low abundance, researchers found. The amount of chinook the southern residents have been consuming hasn't grown much in 40 years, and lack of food is even emerging in other research as the biggest block to a rebound in the local killer-whale populations, behind vessel noise, contamination and other threats.

The whales are on a path to extinction within a century if they can't get significantly more chinook to eat, those researchers found. Yet the local orcas will not eat the seals beating them out for their meal, unlike orcas in Canadian and Alaskan waters.

"It's bizarre," said Ford, who added that the southern residents certainly kill marine mammals, such as porpoises. They just don't eat them. "It is something about their behavior and culture, they want to eat salmon."

The role of other factors affecting the local orcas, including noise and contamination, can't be ruled out as driving their decline, Ford said, even as nearby orcas are thriving. "But they seem to be food-limited. Their body condition has been so poor, it is not as good as the northern residents that are also increasing. It is possible they are out-competed for food."

There's no doubt the seal boom has benefited the killer whales in Alaskan and Canadian waters, which savor pinnipeds. Those orcas gorge on seals and other marine mammals — and also ate more chinook than any of the other marine mammals studied.

The marine-mammal conservation success story is due to a range of protections, from bans on commercial whaling to the Marine Mammal Protection Act and Endangered Species Act.

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Life & Style

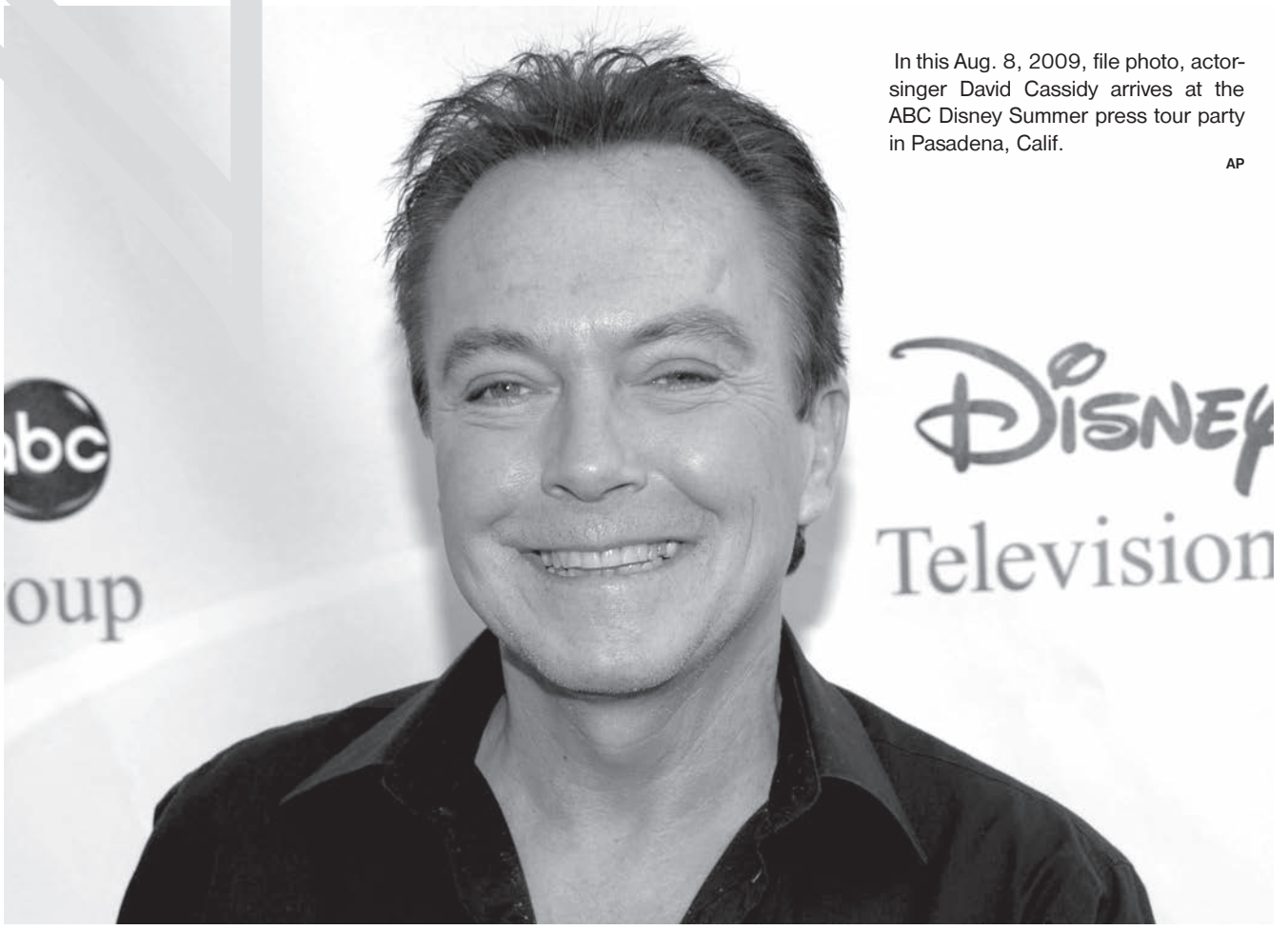
Teen idol David Cassidy, 'Partridge Family' star, dies at 67

NEW YORK (AP)—David Cassidy, the teen and pre-teen idol who starred in the 1970s sitcom "The Partridge Family" and sold millions of records as the musical group's lead singer, died Tuesday at age 67.

Cassidy, who announced earlier this year that he had been diagnosed with dementia, died surrounded by his family, a family statement released by publicist JoAnn Geffen said. No further details were immediately available, but Geffen said on Saturday that Cassidy was in a Fort Lauderdale, Florida, hospital suffering from organ failure.

"David died surrounded by those he loved, with joy in his heart and free from the pain that had gripped him for so long," the statement said. Thank you for the abundance and support you have shown him these many years."

"The Partridge Family" aired from 1970-74 and was a fictional variation of the '60s performers the Cowsills, intended at first as a vehicle for Shirley Jones, the Oscar winning actress and Cassidy's stepmother. Jones played Shirley Partridge, a widow with five children with whom she forms a popular act that travels on a psychedelic bus. The cast also featured Cassidy as eldest son and family heartthrob Keith Partridge; Susan Dey, later of "L.A. Law" fame, as sibling Laurie Partridge and Danny Bonaduce as sibling Danny Partridge.



In this Aug. 8, 2009, file photo, actor-singer David Cassidy arrives at the ABC Disney Summer press tour party in Pasadena, Calif. AP

It was an era for singing families—the Osmonds, the Jacksons. "The Partridge Family" never cracked the top 10 in TV ratings, but the recordings under their name, mostly featuring Cassidy, Jones and session players, produced real-life musical hits and made Cassidy a real-life musical superstar. The Partridges' best known song, "I Think I Love You," spent three weeks on top of the Billboard chart at a time when other hit singles included James Taylor's "Fire and Rain" and Smokey Robinson and the Miracles' "The Tears of a Clown." The group also reached the top 10 with "I'll Meet You Halfway" and "Doesn't Somebody Want to be Wanted" and Cassidy had a solo hit with "Cherish."

"In two years, David Cassidy has swept hurricane-like into the pre-pubescent lives of millions of American girls," Rolling Stone magazine noted in 1972. "Leaving: six and a half million long-playing albums and singles; 44 television programs; David Cassidy lunch boxes; David Cassidy bubble gum; David Cassidy coloring books and David Cassidy pens; not to mention several millions of teen magazines, wall stickers, love beads, posters and photo albums."

Cassidy's appeal faded after the show went off the air, although he continued to tour, record and act over the next 40 years, his albums including "Romance" and the awkwardly titled "Didn't You Used To Be?" He had a hit with "I Write the Songs" before Barry Manilow's chart-topping version and success overseas with "The Last Kiss," featuring backing vocals from Cassidy admirer George Michael. He made occasional stage and television appearances, including an Emmy-nominated performance on "Police Story."

Meanwhile, "The Partridge Family" remained popular in re-runs and Cassidy, who kept his dark bangs and boyish appearance well into middle age, frequently turned up for reunions and spoke often about his early success.

Disney Animation, Pixar chief John Lasseter taking leave

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Just days before Pixar's "Coco" is set to hit theaters, Pixar co-founder and Walt Disney Animation chief John Lasseter announced he is taking a six-month leave of absence citing "missteps" with employees.

The boisterous, Hawaiian shirt-wearing personality behind some of the most beloved children's films of the past 30 years like "Toy Story" is the latest entertainment titan to be exposed for claims of sexual harassment and inappropriate conduct in the workplace.

In a vaguely-worded memo obtained by The Associated Press Tuesday, Lasseter says he knows he has made some employees feel disrespected and uncomfortable.

"I deeply apologize if I have let you down. I especially want to apologize to anyone who has ever been on the receiving end of an unwanted hug or any other gesture they felt crossed the line in any way, shape, or form," Lasseter wrote. "No matter how benign my intent, everyone has the right to set their own boundaries and have them respected."

The Hollywood Reporter published a story that said "unwanted advance" toward actress and writer Rashida Jones led to her departure from Pixar, where she had been working on the script for "Toy Story 4."

Lasseter

Jones called that allegation in the Reporter story untrue.

"We did not leave Pixar because of unwanted advances," Jones and her writing partner Will McCormack wrote in a joint statement. "That said, we are happy to see people speaking out about behavior that made them uncomfortable. As for us, we parted ways because of creative and, more importantly, philosophical differences."

A Disney spokesperson says the company is committed to maintaining a respectful work environment and fully supports Lasseter's sabbatical.

Lasseter, 60, is known for directing films like "Toy Story," ''Toy Story 2," ''A Bug's Life" and "Cars," and has produced every Pixar feature since 2001's "Monster's, Inc." He has been the chief creative officer for Pixar and Walt Disney Animation Studios since 2006, when Disney purchased Pixar, and has overseen the recent Disney Animation renaissance with hits like "Frozen," ''Moana" and "Zootopia," which won the Oscar for best animated feature this year.

Lasseter himself won a special achievement Oscar for "Toy Story" and one for his animated shorts, "Tin Toy," from 1989. He has been recognized for numerous honors, including the Producer's Guild David O. Selznick Achievement Award. But aside from the critical accolades around his work in animation, Lasseter's films are by and large extremely profitable. His Pixar films have earned over $10 billion and, not accounting for inflation, "Frozen" is the ninth highest-grossing film of all time (and No. 1 for animation).

Chrissy Teigen, John Legend expecting second child together

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Chrissy Teigen and John Legend are expanding their family.

The model and the musician used social media Tuesday to announce they're expecting their second child together.

Teigen posted a video on Instagram that shows the couple's daughter, Luna, with her hands on her mother's stomach. When Teigen asks, "What's in here?" the toddler responds, "Baby."

Legend can be heard laughing in the background.

He linked to the video on Twitter, captioning it with two hearts and two baby emojis.

Teigen also posted a self-portrait on Snapchat of her protruding stomach in a fitted black dress. "Very excited to not have to hide this anymore," she wrote.

Teigen, 31, and Legend, 38, were married in 2013. Luna was born in 2016.

German police retrieve 100 stolen John Lennon items

BERLIN (AP)—German police recovered around 100 items that belonged to late Beatles star John Lennon that were stolen from his widow in New York, including three diaries, two pairs of his signature metal-rimmed glasses, a cigarette case and a handwritten music score.

The retrieved possessions were displayed Tuesday at Berlin police headquarters.

"This was a spectacular, unusual criminal case," police spokesman Winfrid Wenzel told reporters.

German authorities first became aware of the items, stolen from Yoko Ono at her New York home in 2006, when a bankruptcy administrator for the Berlin auction house Auctionata contacted them in July. The administrator had found the memorabilia in the company's storage.

Police confiscated the items from the auctioneers two weeks later, and on Monday arrested a suspect and raided his Berlin home and cars. They said another suspect, who is living in Turkey, is currently "not available," but they would try to get him extradited to Germany.

During their investigation, police officers and prosecutors also flew to New York, where they met Ono to have her verify the stolen goods' authenticity.

"She was very emotional and we noticed clearly how much these things mean to her and how happy she would be to have them back," prosecutor Susann Wettley said of the moment they showed Ono some of the recovered items and pictures of some others.

Wettley said that Ono's former driver, who is now living in Turkey, is one of the suspects. He has a previous conviction in New York related to the stolen items, she said.

The other suspect, who was arrested in Berlin on Monday, was identified as a 58-year-old German businessman of Turkish origin. During the search of his car, police said they found additional belongings of Lennon in a briefcase hidden under the spare tire in the trunk. Neither suspect's name was released because of German privacy rules.

CBS News and PBS cut ties to Rose following sex allegations

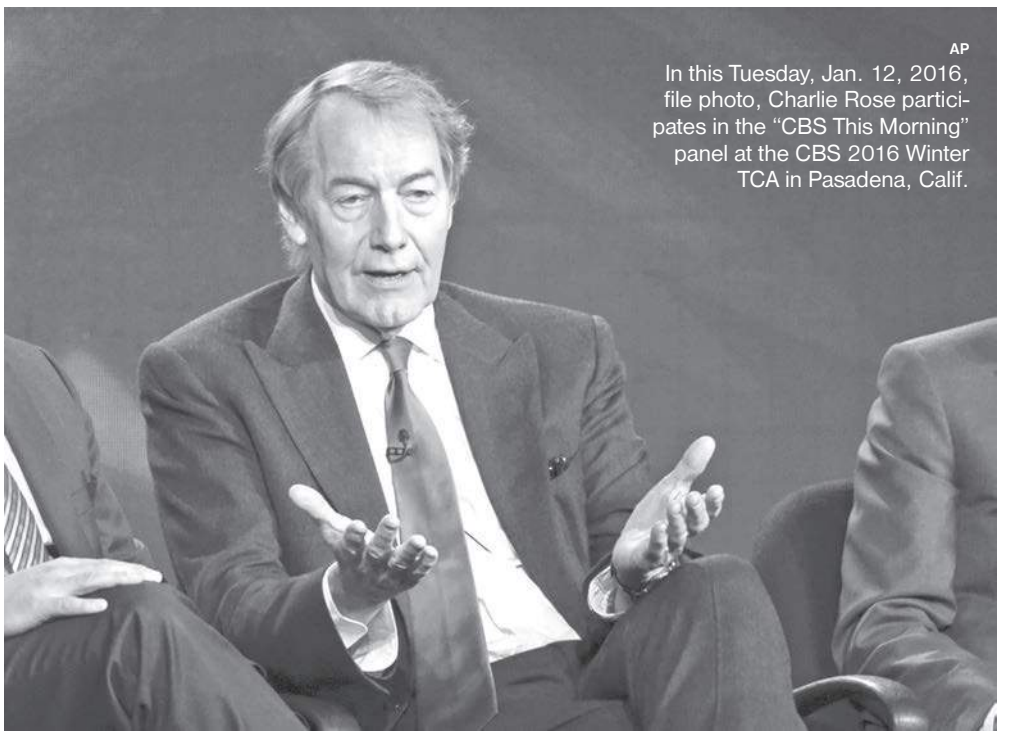
NEW YORK (AP)—CBS News and PBS both cut ties to Charlie Rose on Tuesday, less than 24 hours after several women who worked with him on his PBS interview show alleged a pattern of sexual misconduct, including groping and walking naked in front of them.

Both organizations stressed the importance of providing a safe, professional workplace.

Rose joins a lengthening list of media figures who have lost jobs because of workplace behavior, including Fox News CEO Roger Ailes, Fox host Bill O'Reilly, NBC News political reporter Mark Halperin and National Public Radio news chief Michael Oreskes. The reckoning has come to entertainment, too, led by the assault allegations against Hollywood mogul Harvey Weinstein.

After he was fired, CBS News said three women at the network came forward with complaints about Rose's behavior. The network gave no other details. Prior to that, the accusations about his behavior were all by women who worked or sought work at "Charlie Rose" on PBS.

"Despite Charlie's important journalistic contribution to our news division, there is absolutely nothing more important, in this or any organization, than ensuring a safe, professional workplace_a supportive environment where people feel they can do their best work," CBS News President David Rhodes said in a memo to staff on Tuesday. "We need to be such a place."



AP
In this Tuesday, Jan. 12, 2016, file photo, Charlie Rose participates in the "CBS This Morning" panel at the CBS 2016 Winter TCA in Pasadena, Calif.

Rhodes said it was important to maintaining credibility in reporting allegations involving media figures elsewhere that CBS manage basic standards of behavior at its own shop. Rose hosted "CBS This Morning" each weekday and was a contributor to "60 Minutes."

Rose had no immediate reaction to his firing. In a statement late Monday, he apologized for his actions and said he was "deeply embarrassed."

Several women have accused Rose of touching them on the breasts, buttocks or thigh, emerging naked from a shower when they were working at his residence and, in one case, calling a 21-year-old staffer to tell his fantasies of seeing her swim in the nude. A former associate producer for Rose's PBS show, Reah Bravo, told the Washington Post: "He was a sexual predator, and I was his victim."

PBS said it had not been aware about Rose's alleged behavior until the Post report.

PBS didn't technically fire Rose, since the 75-year-old newsman owns the company that produces his show. Since 1991, Rose has interviewed leading figures in politics, entertainment, business, the media and government at a depth not usually seen on television.

His show aired in 94 percent of the country. PBS said it hasn't yet considered what will replace the show; the service is providing member stations reruns of programs like "This Old House" and "Finding Your Roots" to fill holes in their schedule this week.

Rose's downfall hits CBS hard. Since its start in 2012, "CBS This Morning" has been a critical hit with a newsier format compared to better-known rivals at ABC and NBC. Until recently, CBS has rarely been competitive in the lucrative morning show competition but the program has been on a ratings upswing, too.

In an extraordinary broadcast Tuesday, Rose's cohosts Gayle King and Norah O'Donnell worked without a substitute and sharply took their former colleague to task. The story about Rose led the show. In the 90-second "eye-opener" segment that collected clips of the day's news, two pundits were quoted speculating the charges would end Rose's career. "He's toast," said one off-screen voice.

"This is a moment that demands a frank and honest assessment about where we stand and more generally the safety of women," O'Donnell said. "Let me be very clear. There is no excuse for this alleged behavior."

Report: Weinstein paid $1M to accuser after 2015 case died

NEW YORK (AP)—Harvey Weinstein paid $1 million to silence an Italian model who accused him of groping her in 2015 after prosecutors decided not to charge him, and in the 1990s, his brother paid other accusers from his personal bank account, a magazine reported Tuesday.

Ambra Battilana Gutierrez told The New Yorker she signed a nondisclosure agreement before knowing the media mogul had a pattern of sexually harassing and abusing women. But she felt at the time pressured to sign the agreement.

"I didn't even understand almost what I was doing with all those papers," she told the New Yorker. "I was really disoriented. My English was very bad. All of the words in that agreement were super difficult to understand. I guess even now I can't really comprehend everything."

She recalled that, across the table, Weinstein's attorney was trembling visibly as she picked up the pen.

Weinstein

"I saw him shaking and I realized how big this was. But then I thought I needed to support my mom and brother and how my life was being destroyed, and I did it," she told me. "The moment I did it, I really felt it was wrong."

Weinstein attorneys Blair Berk and Ben Brafman said in a statement to the magazine that because of pending investigations it would be inappropriate to respond to each of the details in the article.

"Suffice it to say, Mr. Weinstein strongly objects to any suggestion that his conduct at any time has ever been contrary to law," according to the statement published in the magazine. "Be assured that we will respond in any appropriate legal forum, where necessary, and fully expect that Mr. Weinstein will prevail against any claim of legal wrongdoing."

Gutierrez had told police the movie magnate touched her thigh, grabbed her breasts and asked "are these real?" during a meeting in his Manhattan office on March 27, 2015. Investigators conducted a sting, listening to a call between the two and getting the model to record an in-person encounter in which Weinstein alternated between trying to persuade her to come into his hotel room and apologizing for his conduct at his office.

No charges were brought, because the district attorney concluded they were not supported.

Gutierrez told the magazine the decision shocked her.

"We had so much proof of everything," she said. "Everyone was telling me, 'Congratulations, we stopped a monster.'"

After the recent flood of allegations against Weinstein brought new scrutiny of that decision, Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus Vance's top assistant prosecutor said that police had arranged the 2015 sting without prosecutors' knowledge and that there were other "proof issues." The NYPD pushed back, saying it had used established investigative techniques to present prosecutors with a recording that corroborated Gutierrez's complaint, plus other statements and information.

Sister is appalled by what brother asks mom to do

DEAR ABBY: My brother and his wife recently had their second child through induced labor. On the delivery day, my mother asked what she could do to help. My brother asked her to go to his home, which is an hour away, sweep and vacuum the house, change the sheets and do the laundry because they didn't have time.

I feel it was extremely inappropriate. Picking up diapers and making sure the bassinet has clean sheets are acceptable requests; cleaning the house is not. My mother wasn't bothered by it, but I am appalled. Am I wrong?

STUCK IN THE MIDDLE

DEAR STUCK: You are entitled to your feelings. However, because your mother wasn't bothered by your brother's request, my advice is to stay out of it because it was none of your business. Please don't stir the pot more than you already may have because the person who will suffer for it is you.

DEAR ABBY: I'm a mom who raised three kids and now I help with the grandchildren. I had dogs all my life until my last one died of old age. I was enjoying life with no responsibilities and could walk out of my house without worry.

My friend, who lives in an apartment, asked me to keep her cat, "Fluffy," while she was on vacation. I gladly helped her out and carefully took care of her cat. Now Fluffy loves being at my house and acts mean when she goes back to the apartment. The only answer was to keep Fluffy, but I don't want a cat!

How do I get rid of a cat who loves being at my house? I'm miserable because I miss my carefree life after many years of caring for others.

PET-FREE IN ALABAMA

DEAR PET-FREE: You have done enough. If you can, figure out why Fluffy is happy with you so you can share that information with her owner as you return her. You deserve the carefree life you have earned.

DEAR ABBY: My son volunteers as a chaperone for his daughters' elementary school field trips. Each parent volunteer is assigned five or six children.

Before they board the bus, my son gathers his group and tells them they are going to take a memory picture. He does it because if a child is ever lost, he wants a photo to immediately show any responding police officers. His exact words to me were, "Mom, in an emergency, I might not remember what a child was wearing, what her backpack looked like or how tall she is."

He never tells the children the real reason for taking the picture. Afterward, he just emails it to any child who wants a souvenir of the trip.

PROUD OF MY SON

DEAR PROUD: Congratulations for having raised a smart son. My readers will let us know if his idea is original, but it's a good one, which is why I'm printing your letter. For anyone supervising a group of children, this could be a helpful suggestion.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

MY TEACHER SAID THE SAME THING DAD DID. THE SUN ISN'T GOING OUT AFTER ALL!
IT'S JUST GETTING COLDER BECAUSE WINTER'S COMING. DAD WAS RIGHT ALL ALONG!
IMAGINE OL' DAD KNOWING SOMETHING LIKE THAT!

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

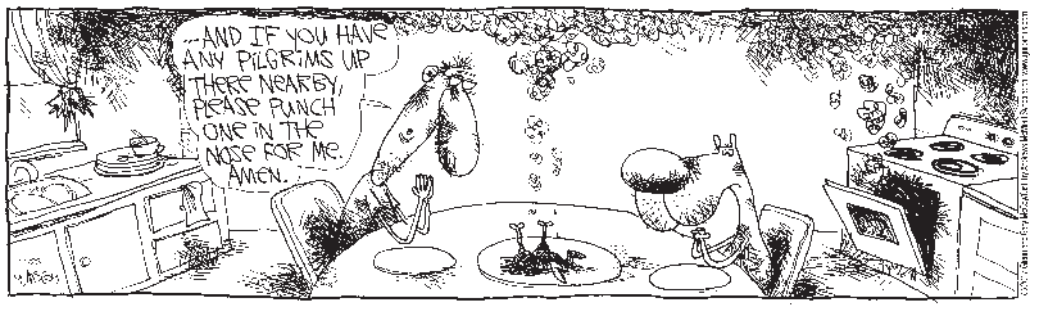
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

HAPPY THANKSGIVING, EVERYBODY!
I'VE GOT MY TURKEY. WHAT'RE YOU GUYS HAVING?
HE MAKES THAT JOKE EVERY YEAR. WITHOUT FAIL.
WAIT. WHY ARE WE ALL ON THE SAME SIDE OF THE TABLE?

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Baby elephant
5 Deluge refuge
8 Taj Mahal site
12 Iranian money
13 Stock holder
14 Golf hazard
15 Garfield's pal
16 Leading lady?
17 Start the day
18 Life's work
20 Over-acts
22 Part of TNT
23 Before
24 Shrill barks
27 Appreciative
32 Online address
33 Cyclades island
34 French article
35 Placid
38 Piggy bank opening
39 Ode title starter
40 Scrap
42 Little angel
45 "Taken" star Liam
49 Lummoxes
50 Poached breakfast
52 Andean land
53 Sad
54 Gun lobby org.
55 Nuisance
56 Karate level
57 Hosp. workers
58 Love god

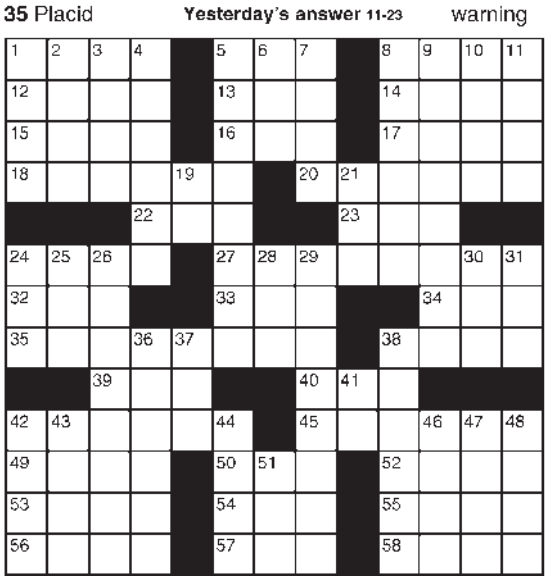
DOWN

1 Gator's kin
2 Verdi opera
3 Hide-away
4 Armadas
5 Pre-prandial drink
6 Speed (up)
7 Leg joint
8 On the job
9 Appreciative
10 Croupier's tool
11 Mimics
19 Hosp. triage area
21 Gents
24 "Uh-huh"
25 Exist
26 Thanks-giving buffet quantity
28 The Astros, on score-boards
29 Since
30 Family card game
31 Allow
36 Waist-cinching garment
37 Vichy water
38 Treeless tract
41 Concerning
42 — salad
43 Robust
44 Flex
46 Crystal gazer
47 Guesser's words
48 Crazy
51 Spike's warning

Solution time: 24 mins.

B	L	A	B	■	B	O	G	■	S	P	C	■
■	O	W	A	■	F	I	I	■	A	R	T	E
B	O	O	K	F	N	D	S	■	M	F	T	A
■	N	I	F	■	■	T	O	M	T	O	M	■
■	■	■	R	A	F	T	■	B	Y	E	■	■
L	A	C	Y	■	R	A	R	E	■	N	B	A
O	X	O	■	M	O	R	A	Y	■	C	A	M
G	E	M	■	E	M	T	S	■	A	S	H	Y
■	■	M	A	R	■	S	H	■	M	■	■	■
S	W	E	R	V	E	■	■	R	C	S	I	E
H	A	N	G	■	G	O	D	S	E	N	D	S
U	N	D	O	■	G	N	U	■	B	O	O	P
N	E	S	T	■	Y	E	N	■	A	B	L	Y

Yesterday's answer 11-23



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Miley Cyrus, 25; Salli Richardson-Whitfield, 50; Robin Roberts, 57; Bruce Hornsby, 63.

Happy Birthday: Mixed emotions will lead to a confusing year. If you see an opportunity, don't hesitate or wait for someone's approval. Make a move because it's what's best for you. Don't question whether you are heading in the right direction or if you may have made a mistake that will cause you regret in the future. Do what feels right intuitively. Your numbers are 2, 9, 18, 27, 36, 39, 46.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Taking reserved measures will be better than getting worked up over something you cannot change. Exercise or some form of physical activity will give you the time and stress relief you need to think matters through rationally. ✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Not everyone will have your best interests at heart. Be careful when dealing with your peers. The competition will be stiff, so don't offer anyone information that could be used against you. Moderation and secrecy will be in your best interest. ✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Be aware of what's going on around you. Learn from the mistakes others make and avoid anyone trying to get you involved in something that doesn't fit into your schedule or your plans for the future. Look out for number one. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Spend more time with the people you love. Working toward simple goals and meaningful endeavors will make you feel good about what you accomplish and how you move forward. Personal improvements will make you feel good about what you have accomplished. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* A challenge will do you good and encourage personal growth. Indulgence should be countered with physical fitness and common sense. Networking will help you gain support as well as the confidence of someone willing to help you advance. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Ask someone to help you make a positive personal decision. Changes at home may not be welcome, but do your best to make the most out of whatever situation you face. In the end, you'll come out on top. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Don't get angry over the little things. Not everyone has the same standard of living or life philosophy. Do your best to get along with them anyway. As long as the positive aspects outweigh the negative, you should be able to maintain good relationships. ✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Arranging a short trip or making plans with a friend or loved one will give you something to look forward to. Learn from past experience when dealing with emotional issues that involve co-workers. A physical change will boost your morale. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Don't leave anything to chance. When dealing with matters that stem from past problems, it is best to put matters to rest quickly so that you can head in a direction that promises greater happiness and improved results. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Emotional unpredictability will leave you open to criticism. Don't air your feelings to anyone who may use the information against you. Handle changes that come your way with caution and intelligence. Concentrate on personal improvements and gains. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Slow down. Don't make an impulsive emotional decision without getting the facts first. A financial loss or gain rests in your hands. Be smart, patient and negotiate on your own behalf. Preparation is necessary and time is on your side. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Dealing with partnerships can be difficult if you let your emotions filter into important conversations. It's best to find out where you stand before you divulge your true feelings. Romance is encouraged. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are determined, opinionated and powerful. You are unpredictable and self-confident.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

5		6				3		9
			1	2	9			
		9		7		4		
		3	9		4	6		
		2		8		7		
			2	5	8			
3		7				5		1

Difficulty Level ★★★ 11/23

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

8	1	7	2	3	4	5	9	6
2	9	3	1	6	5	7	4	8
4	5	6	7	9	8	1	2	3
3	6	4	5	8	9	2	7	1
7	8	9	4	2	1	3	6	5
5	2	1	6	7	3	4	8	9
1	3	8	9	4	2	6	5	7
6	4	5	8	1	7	9	3	2
9	7	2	3	5	6	8	1	4

Difficulty level ★★★ 11-

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

IT'S SMOKY Solution: 4 letters

G	N	S	N	L	A	W	N	M	O	W	E	R	L	E
O	O	I	G	O	I	L	S	A	L	T	U	I	O	R
U	R	R	A	O	B	N	O	C	A	B	A	N	O	I
D	E	G	G	T	D	R	Q	B	B	T	O	L	K	F
A	O	V	A	O	N	E	A	E	K	B	O	A	E	N
R	Z	O	O	N	N	U	R	C	R	C	N	N	A	O
O	I	W	F	Ⓣ	I	Z	O	U	S	I	A	G	R	B
M	R	E	Ⓐ	V	S	C	O	M	C	T	C	I	T	R
A	O	Ⓡ	O	K	H	B	O	L	D	R	L	S	H	I
S	H	I	C	I	S	L	L	I	A	I	O	O	Y	S
H	C	A	M	C	D	I	U	Y	E	N	V	O	A	K
E	T	N	U	E	R	Q	S	F	U	E	L	T	R	E
S	E	R	R	G	I	M	A	L	A	S	M	O	G	T
Y	E	C	A	L	P	E	R	I	F	L	A	V	O	R
S	K	R	O	W	E	R	I	F	A	C	T	O	R	Y

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Aroma, Ashes, Bacon, BBQ, Bonfire, Bourbon, Brisket, Carbon, Chimney, Chorizo, Citrine, Cocktail, Cured, Dogs, Earthy, Factory, Fireplace, Fireworks, Flavor, Food, Fuel, Gorgonzola, Gouda, Gray, Grill, Lawnmower, Liquid, Look, Mountain, Obscure, Oils, Organic, Rubber, Salami, Salt, Signal, Smog, Smolder, Soot, Stacks, Stove, Tar, Voice, Volcano, Wood

Yesterday's Answer: Bikes

Treasuries 13 through 26 can be purchased online in time for the holidays at WonderWordBooks.com or call 1-800-642-6480.

CLASSIFIED ADS

RESOURCES MANAGEMENT INTERNATIONAL CORP.

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

(1) Mechanic

Full-time or Part-time

Can do small engines
and heavy equipment
With at least 2 years experience
Must possess a valid Driver's License
and current police clearance will be
required upon employment.
$7.05 - $10.00 per hour (depending
on qualifications and experience)

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www.guam.wish.org

Hafa Adai! Saipan Tribune

Domingo E. Dones
PO Box 503135 Saipan MP 96950
Pro Se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

DOMINGO E. DONES, Petitioner vs. VIOLETA B. SALES, Respondent) FCD-DI-CIVIL ACTION NO. 17-0405) **SUMMONS**

TO: VIOLETA B. SALES

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is given to you herewith within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to Domingo E. Dones whose mailing address is PO Box 503135 Saipan MP 96950 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Court for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of Court at Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this Summons, judgement by default may be taken against you for relief in the complaint.

Dated this 22nd day of August, 2017.
/s/
Clerk of Court

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Dough Scaler & Mixer (2)

Classification: Full-Time, Non-Exempt, 32-40 hours per week, 6 days per week, 7am - 2pm
Rate: $7.05 to $7.25/hr
Department: Operations
Reports to: Manager In Charge (MIC)

Summary of Responsibilities
Prepares the pizza dough every morning to use throughout the day.

Essential Functions
- Responsible fo dough preparedness as prescribed from manager In Charge
- Complies with all portioning, quality standards, rules, policies, and safety procedures
- Selects and transports raw items to work are and back. Stores finished products in proper places
- Selects proper equipment and utensils to prepare as procedure require – dough mixer, whips, pitcher, proofer, bun-o-matic, retarder and dough roller.

Other Functions
Performs other duties as assigned

Abilities, Knowledge, and Skills
Must be able to work the opening shift. Able to understand and implement written and verbal instructions. Must possess basic math skills.

Required Experience
Previous bakery experience required.

Education/Experience
High school diploma required.

Physical and/or Medical Requirements
Must obtain a Tuberculosis Clearance Certificate. Position requires well-paced mobility for minimum periods minimum of four hours. Requires standing and walking for the entire workday. Must be able to bend and stoop occasionally. Must be able to occasionally lift 40 lbs. Must have sensory capabilities to select quality of sauce. Must have finger dexterity to use some utensil tools.

Working Conditions
Minimal hazards. General restaurant working conditions.

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Japanese star Ohtani cleared to play next season

NEW YORK (AP)—Major League Baseball, its players' union and the Japanese commissioner's office agreed Tuesday to a new posting system that could allow star pitcher-outfielder Shohei Ohtani to be put up for bid next week, a person familiar with the deal told The Associated Press.

The agreement is still not in writing and must be ratified by Major League Baseball, Nippon Professional Baseball and the Major League Baseball Players Association, the person said on condition of anonymity because no comments were authorized.

MLB owners are scheduled to vote for ratification on Dec. 1, and Ohtani is expected to be posted then or the following day, the person said. The deal calls for the negotiating period this offseason to be cut to 21 days from 30. The posting fee limit this offseason remains $20 million, and Ohtani's club, the Pacific League's Nippon Ham Fighters, is expected to seek the maximum for the 23-year-old star.

As part of the deal, a tiered system for posting fees will start next Nov. 1. The fee will be 20 percent of the first $25 million of a major league contract, including earned bonuses and options. The percentage drops to 17.5 percent of the next $25 million and 15 percent of any amount over $50 million.

For minor league contracts, the fee will be 25 percent of the signing bonus.

Starting next offseason, the posting period will be shortened to Nov. 1 through Dec. 5. Under the previous agreement, the time period was Nov. 1 through March 1.

As part of negotiations this week, NPB dropped its stance that a Japanese team be able to withdraw a posting before the process is complete.

The players' association wanted that provision eliminated and also desired the shorter posting period. The union believes Japanese free agents entering the market late potentially could impact negotiations with major league free agents.

Ohtani is the reigning Pacific League MVP and was 3-2 with a 3.20 ERA this year for the Fighters, limited because of thigh and ankle injuries. He hit .332 in 65 games with 16 doubles, eight homers and 31 RBI.

A right-hander, Otani has a 42-15 record with a 2.52 ERA and 624 strikeouts in 543 innings over five seasons, and a .286 batting average with 48 homers and 166 RBI.

Under baseball's labor contract that started last Nov. 30, Otani is restricted to a minor league contract subject to signing bonus restrictions because he is under 25.

Texas has the most money remaining to sign international players under age 25 in its pool for the period running through June 15 at $3,535,000, followed by the New York Yankees at $3.5 million, Minnesota ($3,245,000), Pittsburgh ($2,266,750), Seattle ($1,557,500) and Miami ($1.49 million).

AP

This Nov. 11, 2016, file photo shows Team Japan, from left, manager Hiroki Kokubo, infielder Tetsuto Yamada, infielder Ryosuke Kikuchi, designated hitter Shohei Ohtani, and infielder Sho Nakata standing during a ceremony prior to their international exhibition series baseball game against Mexico at Tokyo Dome in Tokyo.

Braves stripped of 13 prospects, Coppolella banned for life

ATLANTA (AP)—The Braves lost 13 prospects and former general manager John Coppolella was banned for life by Major League Baseball on Tuesday for circumventing international signing rules from 2015-17.

Former Atlanta special assistant Gordon Blakeley, who was the team's international scouting chief, was suspended from baseball for one year by Commissioner Rob Manfred.

Sanctions imposed by Manfred leave the Braves unable to bargain at full strength for a top Latin American prospect until 2021.

Manfred said MLB's investigation determined the Braves funneled extra signing bonus money to five players in 2015-16 by giving the funds first to another player considered a foreign professional under baseball's rules and having the money redistributed to the other five. If the money had been counted for the other five, the Braves would have exceeded their pool by more than 5 percent and been restricted to signing bonuses of $300,000 or under for international amateurs through June 15, 2019.

Because of that, MLB voided the contracts of nine players the Braves would have been ineligible to sign: Venezuelan infielder Kevin Maitan ($4.25 million signing bonus), Venezuelan catcher Abrahan Gutierrez ($3.53 million), Dominican shortstop Yunior Severino ($1.9 million), Dominican right-hander Juan Contreras ($1.2 million), Dominican shortstop Yenci Pena ($1.05 million), Dominican right-hander Yefri del Rosario ($1 million), Cuban outfielder Juan Carlos Negret ($1 million), Venezuelan shortstop Livan Soto ($1 million) and Colombian right-hander Guillermo Zuniga ($350,000).

Three players the Braves signed for $300,000 bonuses were set free because the Braves gave additional money to their agents by signing others to deals with what MLB called "inflated" bonuses: Venezuelan outfielder Antonio Sucre, Dominican outfielder Brandol Mezquita and Dominican shortstop Angel Rojas.

Atlanta's deal with South Korean shortstop Ji-Hwan Bae, which also called for a $300,000 signing bonus, was rejected by MLB because the sides agreed to compensation outside the contract.

In addition, the Braves were banned from signing Robert Puason, a 14-year-old Dominican shortstop with whom they had reached a verbal agreement, when he becomes eligible for a contract on July 2, 2019. MLB said the Person agreed to sign with the Braves because the team agreed with his agent to deals with six other players for "inflated" signing bonuses.

Atlanta also forfeited its third-round selection in next June's amateur draft as punishment for offering "impermissible benefits" to an unidentified draft pick in an effort to convince him to sign for a lower bonus.

The 13 players keep their bonuses from the Braves, must obtain new representatives and will be free to negotiate as free agents with other teams from Dec. 5 through Jan. 15.

As part of an agreement between MLB and the players' association, a club can use money from either its 2017-18 or 2018-19 signing bonus pool to sign a player but can't combine money from both pools in one contract. The first $200,000 of a signing bonus will not count against a team's limit, but the $300,000 maximum remains for teams subject to the penalty for exceeding their pool under the previous labor contract.

Manfred said stripping the Braves of the 13 players was not sufficient punishment. He said "additional sanctions are warranted to penalize the club for the violations committed by its employees."

Therefore, the Braves will be prohibited from signing any international player for more than $10,000 during the 2019-20 signing period. Also, the team's international signing bonus pool for the 2020-21 signing period will be reduced by 50 percent.

The Braves already cannot give an international signing bonus of more than $300,000 for 2017-18 and 2018-19 as penalties for exceeding their signing bonus pools.

Manfred said he intends "to discipline other Braves international baseball operations employees who participated in the misconduct."

Blakeley said in a statement released to several media outlets that he accepted responsibility for his actions but was following instructions.

"I am obviously very disappointed in the Commissioner's decision regarding my suspension, particularly given my 32 years of untarnished service to the game," Blakeley said in the statement. "That said, I am in the digesting the Commissioner's findings and considering all of my options going forward. I take responsibility for my actions in this situation; however, I always acted under the direction of my superiors."

Coppolella, 39, did not immediately respond to a request for comment from The Associated Press. He joined former Cincinnati manager Pete Rose (1989 agreement following investigation of his gambling), New York Mets pitcher Jenrry Mejia (2016, third positive drug test) and former St. Louis employee Chris Correa (2017, hacking into Houston computer systems) on the permanently ineligible list.

He was forced to resign after his 11th season with the Braves and second full year as general manager. He began his time with the Braves in 2006 when he oversaw quantitative analysis and baseball information initiatives.

Coppolella, a magna cum laude graduate of Notre Dame in business management, was hired by the New York Yankees as a baseball operations assistant in 2000. He spent seven years with the Yankees, including time as assistant director of pro scouting.

Coppolella was credited with helping to improve the Braves' farm system, which was rated No. 1 this year by Baseball America.

Former team president John Hart was moved to a senior adviser role when a new general manager, Alex Anthopoulos, was hired on Nov. 13. Hart left the team on Friday.

"The senior baseball operations officials responsible for the misconduct are no longer employed by the Braves," Manfred said. He also said the Braves "cooperated throughout the investigation."

Atlanta braced fans for the sanctions when team chairman Terry McGuirk apologized to fans "on behalf of the entire Braves family" for the rules violations at the news conference to introduce Anthopoulos.

The Braves said in a statement they "understand and accept the decision regarding the penalties that have been handed down.

Lakers rally from 19-point deficit to beat Bulls

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Kyle Kuzma had 22 points, Kentavious Caldwell-Pope scored 11 of his 21 in the fourth quarter and the Los Angeles Lakers rallied from a 19-point deficit in the second half for a 103-94 victory over the Chicago Bulls on Tuesday night.

Brandon Ingram had 17 points, five rebounds and five assists as the Lakers won consecutive games for the second time this season.

Los Angeles had a miserable first half and trailed 61-42 early in the second, but put together a 38-19 run. Caldwell-Pope's layup with 3:08 to play gave the Lakers their first lead since the first quarter.

Caldwell-Pope added back-to-back 3-pointers to get the LA crowd on its feet. After Ingram made a difficult layup with 1:16 left, Caldwell-Pope alertly kept a loose ball alive after Lonzo Ball missed a 3-pointer, allowing the Lakers to seal their first win over the Bulls at Staples Center in three tries.

Denzel Valentine scored 17 points and Antonio Blakeney added 15—all in the first half— for the Bulls, who dropped to 3-12 with their seventh loss in eight games.

Kris Dunn had 12 points and six assists in his second start of the season for Chicago.

Ball had eight points, 13 rebounds and four assists. After posting his second career triple-double Sunday against Denver, the touted rookie missed seven of his first eight shots against Chicago, but provided strong playmaking down the stretch.

The NBA's worst shooting team hit seven 3s in the first half while taking an 18-point lead over the step-slow Lakers. Blakeney was a rookie surprise, hitting a career-high six shots in the opening minutes while the Bulls surged well ahead.

Los Angeles committed 13 first-half turnovers, played poor defense and would have been buried without Kuzma's gritty scoring.

Meanwhile, injuries are thinning the Milwaukee Bucks' frontcourt as they begin a Western Conference road trip.

The team says forward Mirza Teletovic is expected to miss four weeks following arthroscopic surgery on Tuesday to repair cartilage in his left knee. He has missed the last six games.

The 6-foot-9 Teletovic is a key player off the bench for Milwaukee. He is averaging 7.1 points in 10 games this season, shooting 46 percent from 3-point range.

The Bucks also say starting center John Henson will miss Wednesday night's game in Phoenix after what they call a "successful eye procedure."

Henson is expected to rejoin the Bucks before Saturday's game at Utah. He is averaging 6.7 points and 6.6 rebounds.

Guard Matthew Dellavedova also remains out with left knee tendinitis.

AP

Los Angeles Lakers forward Kyle Kuzma, right, tries to steal the ball from Chicago Bulls forward Bobby Portis during the second half of an NBA basketball game Tuesday, Nov. 21, 2017, in Los Angeles. The Lakers won, 103-94.

Westbrook still adjusting to two new teammates

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)—Russell Westbrook isn't focused on the fact that his Oklahoma City Thunder will face former teammate Kevin Durant and the Golden State Warriors on Wednesday.

Westbrook's mind is on the Thunder's early struggles. Oklahoma City entered the season with high hopes after the team added Paul George and Carmelo Anthony in trades. Despite the infusion of talent and Westbrook's still electric play, the Thunder have stumbled to a 7-9 start.

"It really don't matter who we have next, it's about us," said Westbrook, the reigning MVP. "Regardless of what other teams do, when we play the way we're supposed to play for 48 minutes, it's hard to beat us. That's all I worry about is our team."

Westbrook has been his usual self in many ways. He's averaging 20.1 points, 8.7 rebounds and 9.7 assists. After setting the single-season record with 42 triple-doubles last season, he leads the league with five this year.

But he is not dominating fourth quarters like he did last year, and the Thunder are losing the close games he so often willed them through with his scoring flurries. All nine of Oklahoma City's losses this season have been by nine or fewer points. Westbrook averaged 10 points per game in the fourth quarter last season; this season, that average is down to 5.4.

Thunder coach Billy Donovan knew Westbrook would have to give up some elements of his game to accommodate the new talent. Anthony is a 10-time All-Star who was the scoring champion in 2013. George is a four-time All-Star who was the face of the Indiana Pacers' franchise. Donovan said Westbrook is playing as hard as ever and he's had the right attitude during the adjustment process.

"I think Russell has done a really good job, just in terms of the sacrifices that he's tried to make to make the group better and to try and help our group," Donovan said.

Thunder center Steven Adams said Westbrook is trying his best to put the Thunder in position to win, but little things are getting in the way.

"He's doing a great job," Adams said. "He's making the right decisions, from what I'm seeing. The plays that are set—it's not like he's doing anything crazy and deviating from the play. He's doing an amazing job."

Still, Westbrook is shooting just 39.4 percent from the field, which would be a career low, and the Thunder are 21st in field goal percentage in a 30-team league. Donovan said Westbrook, Anthony and George are still figuring out where to get their best shots and how to take advantage of the space the other stars create.

"When you have three guys like Carmelo, Paul and Russ there together, you're going to have to do it through matchups, through who's open, through ball movement, through making the next best right decision," Donovan said. "When you're unable to put the ball in the basket and you're not getting stops, the simplicity of it is it's hard to win games like that."

QB Paxton Lynch to start for Broncos

ALAMEDA, Calif. (AP)—It's time to see conclusively if quarterback Paxton Lynch is a bust or just a late bloomer.

The Denver Broncos' former first-round draft pick will make his first start this weekend at Oakland, a person with knowledge of the decision told The Associated Press on Tuesday.

The person spoke on condition of anonymity because Denver coach Vance Joseph won't announce his starter until Wednesday.

General manager John Elway moved up in the first round of the 2016 NFL draft to select Lynch with the 26th overall pick, but the former Memphis QB proved to be a project.

Trevor Siemian, a 2015 seventh-rounder from Northwestern, handily beat out Lynch in 2016 and again this season. Shortly after coming up short in Denver's quarterback competition for the second time, Lynch bruised his throwing shoulder against Green Bay in a preseason game.

That led to the re-signing of Peyton Manning's longtime backup, Brock Osweiler, who had been released by Cleveland following a trade from Houston.

Osweiler supplanted a turnover prone Siemian (10 interceptions, two lost fumbles) three weeks ago but went winless in his three starts, including a 20-17 defeat to Cincinnati on Sunday in which Lynch was active for the first time.

On Monday, Joseph fired offensive coordinator Mike McCoy and replaced him with quarterbacks coach Bill Musgrave.

McCoy raised eyebrows with his overly complex game plans and stubbornness in sticking to three-receiver formations despite a flurry of sacks, flags and turnovers that resulted from a porous line and lack of depth at tight end and wide receiver.

Joseph said he wanted Musgrave, who guided the Raiders' offense from 2015-16, to simplify the game plans.

Although no team has ever recovered from a 3-7 start to reach the playoffs, it will be interesting to see how Lynch's promotion is met in the locker room.

Teammates have been effusive in their praise of the work ethic and leadership displayed by Osweiler and Siemian and they usually speak in terms of promise and potential when talking about Lynch, who's never been known to get to work first and leave last like so many quarterbacks do.

Last week, when Lynch worked as the backup at practice for the first time and even handled some passing plays with the starters, wide receiver Emmanuel Sanders praised Osweiler's energy and experience that he brought to the equation and said what Lynch brings is a promising upside if he ever buckles down.

"Brock, he's been there before, he's been groomed by Peyton, so he understands the ins and outs of how to play quarterback," Sanders said. "Paxton has a big-time arm, big-time talent. He has all the intangibles. It's all about going out and getting more and more comfortable with the playbook, learning and growing as a player, becoming a pro."

Lynch went 1-1 last year in place of an injured Siemian, losing to Atlanta and beating Jacksonville. He completed 49 of 83 passes for 497 yards and two TDs to go with an interception. He was sacked nine times.

He had to learn a new system when Gary Kubiak stepped down and was replaced by Joseph, who brought in McCoy to replace Rick Dennison.

With Musgrave's promotion, Lynch will be working under his third system in less than two years in the NFL, albeit one that will be pared down for him.

He'll face a Raiders defense going through its own shakeup . The Raiders fired defensive coordinator Ken North Jr. on Tuesday and coach Jack Del Rio handed those duties over to assistant head coach John Pagano.

Rogolifoi: Sports facilities need more funds

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Northern Marianas Sports Association executive director Tony Rogolifoi said they would look into other funding sources to finish several improvement projects in time for Saipan's hosting of the 2021 Pacific Mini Games.

Rogolifoi said they had already exhausted all the funds they received from the Community Development Block Grant provided by the Northern Marianas Housing Corp. and the Marianas Visitors Authority for the resurfacing of the Oleai track oval.

The resurfacing project received $905,112.80 from the CDBG, but $159,800 was deducted to pay for the A&E design done by engineering firm Henry Pangelinan and Associates. MVA gave NMSA an additional $240,000 for the completion of the resurfacing work.

"We are thankful to NMHC and the Marianas Visitors Authority for all their help. We already exhausted all the funds they provided but there's still a lot of things needed to be done here," Rogolifoi told *Saipan Tribune*.

Rogolifoi added that Federal Emergency Management Agency has also provided over $500,000 in assistance to repair other facilities damaged when Typhoon Soudelor hit Saipan two years ago.

"We hope to have additional grandstands and bleachers at the track and baseball field built before the Mini Games. We're going to ask the government for help and hopefully they could provide additional assistance," said Rogolifoi.

The NMSA official said renovation at the sports complex could start before the end of the year and repairs will begin at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

"The two new scoreboards had already arrived. The old one only needs repairs and can still be used. New floors will be installed and it will be thicker to lessen injuries. It will be wall-to-wall that's why the bleachers will be raised," Rogolifoi said.

"We also have two 40-foot containers outside and we're going to store the old equipment there, like the ones used by track and field. Hopefully, we could start the cleaning project by next week."

Rogolifoi is also reminding the community that the Oleai track is still closed for public use until all improvements are done before the year ends. NMSA will charge a minimal usage fee once the track opens to help in the maintenance of the facility.

SBA honors top teams, players of 2017 season

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The Saipan Billiards Association held its awards banquet last week at the Charley's Cabaret at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan to honor the best teams and players of the 2017 season both in the Tuesday and Thursday leagues.

The Blue Haus Destroyers emerged as the Tuesday League champions behind the cue sticks of team captain Nolan Cultura and members Cesar Sangalang, Jeff Garcia, Rico Montano, Roman Rodriguez, and Gian Flores. The Ray Matsunaga-led 9 Eleven Titans had plenty of help from Bill Cepeda, Greg Deleon Guerrero, Joe Villagomez, Patrick "Stallion" Cepeda, Shane Quitugua, and Simeon Kapileo to settle for second place in the Tuesday League.

The Tasha's Str8 Black Ball, meanwhile, came in at third behind the combined efforts of Rey Hermogenes, Jeff Gayas, Marvin Sahagun, Oliver Gragasin, Orly Tibus, and Rodel Dela Cruz.

Sahagun was named the Run The Rack champion, while Bill Cepeda of the Titans joined the Assassins' Julian Reyes and Tasha's Crazy 8's Renato Barros on 8-Ball On Break winners list.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan Billiards Association-Budweiser Thursday League regular season co-MVPs Victor Formales, second left, and Mervin Sahagun, third left, join Pacific Amusement's Neil Gebhard, right, for a group photo during the event's awards banquet last week at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan.

Rodriguez and Saharun earned the Top Gun awards, while Erwin Gomez of the Docomo Hustlers was named the Tuesday League's regular season most valuable player and Cultura took the Finals MVP.

The Assassins of team captain John Reyes, Chris Camacho, Julian Reyes, and Randy Sablan went home with the Sportsmanship Award.

In the Thursday League, the Blue Haus Homeboyz were the Budweiser Cup champions, while 9 Eleven, Titans and Tasha's Wild Bill's were ranked second and third.

Cultura, Garcia, Sangalang, Flores, Junar Guiab, Bart Demapan, and team captain George Lizardo were the members of the Homeboyz, while the 9 Eleven Titans II had Matsunaga, Bill Cepeda, Villagomez, Pat Cepeda, Quitugua, Deleon Guerrero, and Kapileo as players. Joseph Achas, Neil Ayson, Rick ELefante, Victor Formales, and Billy Lucente were the other players in the Dela Cruz-led Wild Tasha's Bills.

Sahagun was also the Run The Rack champion in the Thursday League, while 8 Ball On Break winners were Matsunaga, Hermogenes, Gragasin, Guiab, Montano, Jerry Tiu of Team SCS, and Aljay Malang of the Jam Shooters.

Montano was the Top Gun awardee in the Thursday League, while Sahagun and Formales were the elimination round co-MVPs, and Roel Barreto won the Finals MVP.

The 9 Eleven Shooters—Malang, Lito Pangilinan, Rommel Crisostomo, Melvin Montoya, Nino Zapanta, Roderick Cunanan, Marlon Contreras, and Michael Fontanilla—earned the Sportsmanship Award.

BJJ

From Page 32

ing and his eyes were closing because due to Brown's RNC.

"I almost got choked out but I just heard Cuki [Alvarez] at the corner shouting, '15 seconds Frank, 15 seconds.' I remember thinking to myself, 'man, this is not the way it was supposed to end. It will not going to end this way. I don't want it to end this way. It is not ending here.' I couldn't breathe but I just dug down deep and grabbed his hand," he said.

"I was able to get his hand back to release some pressure and I was able to breathe again and I just got a sudden jolt of energy back, turned him around, and got on top of him," Camacho added.

The Marianas fighter said BJJ also helped him in his fight on Saipan against South Korean Gun Hwan Park in Rites of Passage 21: Throwdown. Camacho got out of a similar choke hold before winning by arm-triangle choke.

"Jiu-jitsu also saved me from getting finished in that fight. I love training and learning new things. I want to always get better from what I do. I'll train harder even in jiu-jitsu because you don't know when and where you will get in that situation again," added Camacho.

Before getting in trouble with Brown, Team Crank's game plan was to keep the fight standing up since the Aussie is a known submission fighter. Brown dropped to 17-11, but eight of his wins were by submission, while Camacho improved to 21-5, with 15 of his victories coming from knockout.

"Stand up fighting that's our plan and if I take him down, I must make sure that I need to be the one on top. I don't want him on top of me since he could get his game going and end it by submission," said Camacho. "So, I just stayed up on my feet and defended his moves to take me down. I moved my head and beat him up. I just let my fists fly, since I knew I have better striking, and surprisingly I have better gas in this fight."

Brown, however, was a tough nut to crack as he managed to take Camacho's strong jabs and combinations, leaving the latter bloodied especially in the third round. Camacho was not surprised at all with his opponent's durability.

"He's tough as they come. He comes with a big gas tank and very durable. It is hard to put him away. I had to make sure that I don't blow my opportunities and do not gas out in the first round while trying to put him away," said Camacho.

"I just tried to keep a long sustained pace all throughout the fight. He was taking shots and I was hitting him with punches that usually put welterweights down. He's durable and he stayed within my face. He was a bloody mess but nothing surprised me," he said.

Camacho thanked his opponent for giving the fans a fight that's worth what they paid for. "I couldn't have expected any less. He represents Australia so there's a lot of pressure on him. I can't take that away from him."

The Camacho-Brown duel was selected as Fight of the Night. However, Camacho, who got four stitches above his right eyebrow from Brown's kick, is ineligible to receive the $50,000 Fight of the Night bonus as he was 4 lbs over the 156-lb weight limit during the weigh-in last Friday. On fight night, both Brown and Camacho weighed 175 lbs.

GCA

From Page 32

School (25), and Mt. Carmel School (7).

In the individual events, Kadokura and Dangol delivered two first place finishes each for GCA for a total of 36 points. Kadokura won the boys 10 to 13's 50m breaststroke (41.55 seconds) and 100m breaststroke (1:39.03). Dangol, on the other hand, topped the girls 11 to 13's 100m freestyle (1:09.35) and 50m butterfly (32.94 seconds).

Other GCA swimmers who recorded first place finishes were Thompson (200m freestyle/3:03.41), Susana (50m freestyle/39.18 second), Camacho-Deleon Guerrero (50m butterfly/34.51 seconds), and Xu (100m freestyle/1:11.27). Thompson added a runner-up performance in the 100m freestyle (1:24.32), while Ha had the same feats in the 50m butterfly (53.49 seconds) and 50m backstroke (55.97 seconds). Frink and Jinang also earned runner-up honors in the 50m freestyle (42.60 seconds) and 200m freestyle (3:24.86), respectively.

In the relay races, the Eagles were runners-up in the 200m medley (2:59.81) and 200m freestyle (2:14.08) to get 28 points.

In other results, Nanaka Watanabe, Jinnosuke Suzuki, and Juhn Tenorio registered two first places finishes each for Tanapag and also lifted their school to victories in the two relay races.

Watanabe ruled the 50m breaststroke (39.93 seconds) and 100m breaststroke (1:28.16); Suzuki prevailed in the 400m freestyle (4:51.29) and 200m freestyle (2:13.45); and Tenorio won the 50m backstroke (33.11 seconds) and 100m backstroke (1:12.44).

The trio then teamed up with Taiyo Akimaru in handing Tanapag the No. 1 finish in both the 200m medley relay (2:18.43) and 200m freestyle relay (2:03.83).

In the 100m butterfly, SCS' Isaiah Aleksenko won over Akimaru after recording 1:11.42 against the latter's 1:28.29. The SCS swimmer also topped the 50m freestyle (30.40 seconds), beating another Tanapag bet in Leo Takahashi, who clocked in at 34.24 seconds.

Duplicating Aleksenko's pair of wins was Hopwood's Ayumi Obligacion, who raced in the 50m backstroke (42.35 seconds) to place ahead of two other swimmers and 100m backstroke (1:34.60).

BATANG

From Page 32

and Ron Gamboa provided enough support to Spott after combining for 31 markers.

Mico Usi registered 19 point on a losing effort for the Silencer, which played without its main gunner Angelo Fernando. The Silencer also missed the production of Kelvin Fitial, who was held to three field goals and 6 points.

Meanwhile, Team Sawi stunned No. 3 seed Black Mamba, 79-66, in the final game in the regular season last Sunday.

With the victory, Team Sawi wrapped up the elimination round with a 6-5 record, taking the No. 6 seeding and earning a playoff date against the same team it defeated in it last game. Black Mamba ended the elims with a 7-4 record and prevailed in the tiebreak against Tropang Ridhors due to the win-over-the-other rule.

Brendon Talania, J.R. Concepcion, and Ehroll Peredo totaled more than half of Team Sawi's output for their baker dozen winning margin. Talania registered 21 points, while Concepcion and Peredo contributed 18 and 16 markers, respectively.

Saturday Game

Batang Bear Brand 89 — Spott 22, Gamboa 19, Esdrelon 12, Che 14, Achas 7, Ariar 7, Devero 3.

Silencer 80 — Usi 19, Morales 17, Estores 10, Culala 9, Fitial 6, Arreza 5, Zapata 2.

Scoring by quarters: 18-16, 39-35, 65-58, 89-80.

Sunday Game

Team Sawi 79 — Talania 21, Concepcion 18, Peredo 16, Maglaqui 14, Galulu 6, Buenabajo 4.

Black Mamba 66 — Capalad 19, Lauron 18, Salazar 8, Ibanez 6, Lansang 5, Gabaldon 4, Echavez 2, Odicta 2.

Scoring by quarters: 18-20, 39-31, 58-48, 79-66.

2017 NMIFA Fall Youth League Festival

PHOTOS By JON PEREZ

Two Shirley's FC players, left, try to block the ball, while a Southern United player attempts for a kick during their coed U8 game in the 2017 NMIFA Fall Youth League Festival held last Saturday at the Hopwood Middle School Field.

A Southern United player, left, dribbles while being chased by a MP united defender during their coed U12 match.

Kanoa FC and TanHoldings FC players go after the ball in one of the more than 10 games played in the coed U8, U10, and U12 divisions.

Matansa FC and Southern United players go after the ball during their coed U8 match.

Matansa FC and TanHoldings FC U8 players battle for possession.

A Kanoa FC U12 player, center, breaks away from two Shirley's FC defenders.

TanHoldings FC's Nathan Perez, right, shields the ball away from a Matansa FC defender.

A Paire FC player, right, tries to keep the ball from going out of bounds during their coed U10 game against Matansa FC.

Japanese star Ohtani cleared to play next season

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Lakers rally from 19-point deficit to beat Bulls

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BJJ saves 'Crank' vs Brown

Batang Bear Brand gets top seeding

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Batang Bear Brand's Elmer Esdrelon takes off for an open layup during their elimination round game against Vendetta in the IT&E-sponsored Ali'i Blue Haus caging at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium. Batang Bear Brand and Vendetta collided anew last night at the start of the playoffs.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Batang Bear Brand outclassed the Silencer, 89-80, during the curtain-raiser in the 2nd Ali'i Blue Haus Invitational Basketball League last Saturday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium to gain the top seeding in the playoffs.

Batang Bear Brand finished the elimination with an 8-3 record, the same mark that the Silencer held but the former won the tiebreak for first place in the team standing due to the win-over-the-other rule. The top-ranked Batang Bear Brand was scheduled to duel last qualifier Vendetta at the start of the playoff round last night, while the Silencer also saw action yesterday and dueled No. 7 Spigen. Results of both matches were unavailable at press time.

Big man Hal Spott had another 20-point plus performance to lead Batang Bear Brand's eighth win. He tallied 22 markers, making 6 of them in the final quarter as he teamed up with Elmer Esdrelon in helping Batang Bear Brand foil the Silencer's comeback bid. Esdrelon

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JON PEREZ

Frank "The Crank" Camacho, center, enjoys his moment with his wife Sarah and their son after returning to Saipan and coming of a win in last Sunday's Ultimate Fighting Championship 121 held at the Qudos Bank Arena in Sydney, Australia.

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Frank "The Crank" Camacho is thankful for learning Brazilian jiu-jitsu during his mixed martial arts training as he credited the combat sport style that focuses on grappling for saving him from a second loss in the Ultimate Fighting Championship.

Camacho provided insights on his split decision victory over Australian Damien "Beatdown" Brown in UFC 121 Werdum vs Tybura last Sunday at the Qudos Bank Arena in Sydney, Australia during his winning return on Saipan late Tuesday night.

"I'm so thankful that I have years of experience in [BJJ] that I was able to fight that choke. [Brown] got that [rear-naked-choke] really deep. Luckily, I know how to get out of it," Camacho, who owns a BJJ brown belt, told *Saipan Tribune* in an interview.

"I was taken down and toward the end of the first round he managed to sneak in that choke. The first one was not that tight so I easily got out. But the second one, he got that rear-naked-choke in really tight that I thought it was over."

The 28-year-old Camacho trained for a few years in Camp Springs in Maryland under legendary BJJ 4th degree instructor Lloyd Irvin.

Camacho said he was already having trouble breath-

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GCA swimmers dominate

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Grace Christian Academy was the runaway winner of the middle school division championship in the 2017 Saipan Swim Club All Schools Swim Meet held last Saturday at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.

Anthony Camacho-Deleon Guerrero, Kean Pajarillaga, Jinie Thompson, Lamar Soleil, Ashley Dangol, Hans Xu, Julia Jinang, Andrew Nunez, Akira Kadokura, Susana and Nieves Villagomez, Erin Frink, and Seung Ha swam for the Eagles and gave their school 167 points from the 20 individual and relay races in their division. GCA led by 50 points against runner-up Tanapag Middle School (111) and was way ahead versus three other teams—Saipan Community School (25 points), Hopwood Middle

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Grace Christian Academy's Ashley Dangol races in the 50m butterfly event during the 2017 Saipan Swim Club All Schools Swim Meet held last Saturday at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.